

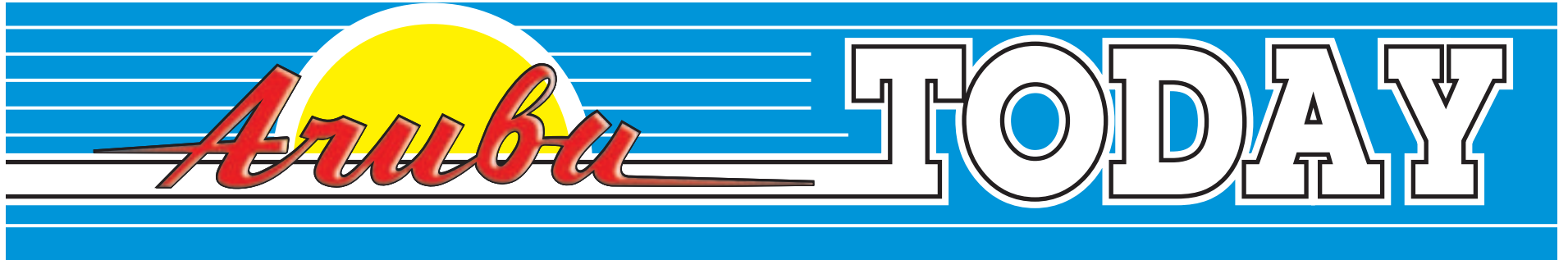
## HATCH JOINS OTHER REPUBLICANS FOR NEW BUDGET DEAL

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## POLICE: EVACUATED HARVARD BUILDINGS ARE NOW ALL CLEAR

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On Top Of The News Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel: +297 582-7800 Tuesday, December 17, 2013



This June 2013 photo shows a sign outside the National Security Agency (NSA) campus in Fort Meade, Md. A federal judge says the NSA's bulk collection of phone records violates the Constitution's ban on unreasonable searches. The judge put his decision on hold pending a nearly certain government appeal.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

## Judge Rules NSA Program Is Likely Unconstitutional

**FREDERIC J. FROMMER**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — In the first ruling of its kind, a federal judge declared Monday that the National Security Agency's bulk collection of Americans' telephone records is likely to violate the U.S. Constitution's ban on unreasonable search. The program probably isn't effective in fighting terror-

ism either, the judge said in a lengthy opinion filled with blistering criticism. U.S. District Court Judge Richard Leon granted a preliminary injunction against the government's collecting of the phone records of two men who had challenged it and said any such records for the men should be destroyed. But he put enforcement

of that decision on hold pending a near-certain government appeal, which may well end up at the Supreme Court. The injunction applies only to the two individual plaintiffs, but the ruling is likely to open the door to much broader challenges to the "metadata" collection and storage. The plaintiffs are Larry Klay-

man, a conservative lawyer, and Charles Strange, who is the father of a cryptologist technician who was killed in Afghanistan when his helicopter was shot down in 2011. The son worked for the NSA and support personnel for Navy SEAL Team VI. Leon, an appointee of Republican President George W. Bush, ruled that the two

men "have a substantial likelihood of showing" that their privacy interests outweigh the government's interest in collecting the data "and therefore the NSA's bulk collection program is indeed an unreasonable search under the Constitution's Fourth Amendment."

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**Family:**

# Make Iran talks contingent on Levinson aid

**MATT APUZZO**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Obama administration should make any diplomatic agreement with Iran contingent on Tehran's help finding missing CIA contractor Robert Levinson, a lawyer for his family said Monday.

"He's your guy and you put him there," attorney David McGee said. "Raise the ante." Levinson disappeared in Iran in 2007. For years, the government falsely said Levinson was traveling on private business. But he was really a CIA contractor traveling on an unauthorized mission to collect intelligence.

Relations between the U.S. and Iran have softened in recent months, and the two countries are inching toward a diplomatic deal over Tehran's nuclear program. President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have repeatedly asked for Iran's help finding Levinson, but not as a condition for a larger nuclear deal.

"Mostly what we've gotten is lip service. We want them to make him the priority," McGee said. "I'd like us to move to the top of the pile, and not the bottom of the pile where we've been."

After Levinson vanished, the CIA falsely told the FBI and Congress that it had no relationship with Levinson and that he had not been working on Iranian

investigation. Three people were forced out and seven others were disciplined in the fallout, one of the biggest scandals in recent CIA history.

serves to know what went wrong and why it took so long for the agency to acknowledge what happened.

"Congress can make peo-



**This undated handout photo provided by the family of Robert Levinson after they received it in April 2011, shows retired-FBI agent Robert Levinson. The Obama administration should make any diplomatic agreement with Iran contingent on Tehran's help finding missing CIA contractor Robert Levinson, a lawyer for his family said Monday.**

(AP Photo/Levinson Family)

issues.

Only months later, when McGee and his paralegal discovered Levinson's emails with his CIA contact, did the agency conduct a thorough internal

Now that an Associated Press investigation brought the truth to light, McGee said, Congress should hold public hearings to get to the bottom of what happened. The public de-

ple talk," he said. "This was botched from the beginning."

Criticism has mounted since revelations of Levinson's CIA ties were made public. □

## Scholars' group endorses academic boycott of Israel

**RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA**  
**© 2013 New York Times**

An association of American professors with almost 5,000 members has voted to endorse an academic boycott of Israeli colleges and universities, the group announced Monday, making it the largest academic group in the United States to back a growing movement to isolate Israel over its treatment of Palestinians. The group, the American Studies Association, said that its members approved the boycott resolution by 2-to-1 in online balloting that concluded Sunday night, with about a quarter of the members voting. Previously, on Dec. 4, the asso-

ciation's national council had voted unanimously in favor of a boycott resolution, before putting the issue to its members. It's the first time that the association has called for an academic boycott of any nation's universities, said Curtis Marez, the group's president and an associate professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, San Diego.

"The resolution is in solidarity with scholars and students deprived of their academic freedom and it aspires to enlarge that freedom for all, including Palestinians," the American Studies Association said in a statement released Monday.

The statement cited "Israel's violations of international law and U.N. resolutions; the documented impact of the Israeli occupation on Palestinian scholars and students; the extent to which Israeli institutions of higher education are a party to state policies that violate human rights," and other factors. The vote came despite a statement last week by the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, that his government's stance is to boycott Israeli businesses and other activities in the occupied territories, but not in Israel itself. Scholars are pitted against one another in a heated debate about the ethics

of academic boycotts, the motives behind the campaign and whether Israel is being singled out unfairly. The movement to cut off relations with Israeli academic and cultural institutions dates back a decade, but organizers say it was not until April that an American academic group of any size, the Association for Asian American Studies, endorsed a boycott. The Modern Language Association's annual meeting next month will include a discussion session on academic boycotts, and it will consider a motion critical of Israel for restricting professors' freedom to visit Palestinian universities. □

## California Jurors suggest death in family murders

**SANTA ANA, California (AP)** — A jury on Monday recommended a death sentence for a man convicted of murdering his former girlfriend's father and sister in a fiery 2007 attack on the family's home that prosecutors say was an ill-conceived attempt at reuniting with his ex.

Jurors deliberated for about three hours in the penalty phase of Iftekhar Murtaza's trial before announcing Thursday they had reached a verdict, said Deputy District Attorney Howard Gundy. Judge Thomas Goethals decided to wait until Monday to read the verdict.

Murtaza, 29, was convicted Nov. 22 of two counts of murder, one count of attempted murder and one count of conspiracy. The 12 jurors found there were special circumstances of multiple murders, and murder during a kidnapping in the case of one victim.

Goethals set a sentencing hearing for Jan. 10.

Authorities say Murtaza killed the relatives of Shayona Dhanak, who was a college freshman in 2007, after she blamed her decision to end the couple's two-year relationship on her devout Hindu family's opposition to her dating a Muslim.

The family's home in Anaheim Hills was torched, and Dhanak's mother, Leela, was stabbed and left unconscious on a neighbor's lawn. The charred, stabbed bodies of Dhanak's father, Jay, and 20-year-old sister, Karishma, were found in a park the next day.

Two of Murtaza's friends also were convicted in the killings. Vitaliy Krasnoperov was sentenced to life in prison, and Charles Murphy Jr. is scheduled to be sentenced in December.

Prosecutors say an obsessed Murtaza wanted to kill the family to eliminate them as an obstacle to the relationship and drive Shayona Dhanak back to his arms. In an online chat with Krasnoperov, Murtaza first planned to hire a hit man. □



# Judge Rules NSA Program Is Likely Unconstitutional

Continued from front

"I have little doubt that the author of our Constitution, James Madison, who cautioned us to beware 'the abridgment of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power,' would be aghast," he declared. Andrew C. Ames, a spokesman for the Justice Depart-

secret court was, when exposed to the light of day, found to violate Americans' rights. It is the first of many."

The Obama administration has defended the program as a crucial tool against terrorism.

But in his 68-page, heavily footnoted opinion, Leon concluded that the government didn't cite a single

instance in which the program "actually stopped an imminent terrorist attack."

"I have serious doubts about the efficacy of the metadata collection program as a means of conducting time-sensitive investigations in cases involving imminent threats of terrorism," he added.

He said was staying his ruling pending appeal "in

light of the significant national security interests at stake in this case and the novelty of the constitutional issues."

The government has argued that under a 1979 Supreme Court ruling, *Smith v. Maryland*, no one has an expectation of privacy in the telephone data that phone companies keep as business records.

In that ruling, the high court rejected the claim that police need a warrant to obtain such records.

But Leon said that was a "far cry" from the issue in this case.

The question, he said, is, "When do present-day circumstances — the evolutions in the government's surveillance capabilities, citizens' phone habits, and the relationship between the NSA and telecom companies — become so thoroughly unlike those considered by the Supreme Court 34 years ago that a precedent like *Smith* simply does not apply? The answer, unfortunately for the government, is now."

He wrote that the court in 1979 couldn't have imagined how people interact with their phones nowadays, citing the explosion

of cellphones.

In addition, he said, the *Smith* case involved a search of just a few days, while "there is the very real prospect that the (NSA) program will go on for as long as America is combating terrorism, which realistically could be forever!" Leon added: "The almost-Orwellian technology that enables the government to store and analyze the phone metadata of every telephone user in the United States is unlike anything that could have been conceived of in 1979."

The judge also mocked the government's contention that it would be burdensome to comply with any court order that requires the NSA to remove the plaintiffs from its database. "Of course, the public has no interest in saving the government from the burdens of complying with the Constitution!" he wrote.

As for the government's complaint that other successful requests "could ultimately have a degrading effect on the utility of the program," he said, "I will leave it to other judges to decide how to handle any future litigation in their courts." □



White House press secretary Jay Carney speaks during the daily press briefing at the White House in Washington, Monday, Dec. 16, 2013. Carney reiterated the position of the White House that there will be no amnesty for former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

(AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

ment's National Security Division, said in a statement,

"We've seen the opinion and are studying it. We believe the program is constitutional as previous judges have found. We have no further comment at this time."

The collection program was disclosed by former NSA systems analyst Edward Snowden, provoking a heated debate over civil liberties.

In a statement provided to reporter Glenn Greenwald and obtained by The Associated Press, Snowden said, "I acted on my belief that the NSA's mass surveillance programs would not withstand a constitutional challenge and that the American public deserved a chance to see these issues determined by open courts. Today, a secret program authorized by a

## Hatch joins other republicans to support budget

JONATHAN WEISMAN  
© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON - Support for a compromise two-year budget deal grew Monday ahead of a Tuesday vote in the Senate, as Republicans concluded that a measure that achieved overwhelming bipartisan support in the House could not die in Congress' upper chamber.

Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, announced his support for the measure Monday, appearing to give it the 60 votes it would need to overcome a filibuster threat and bring it to a final vote, which would need only a majority. Hatch joined Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake of Arizona, Richard M. Burr of North

Carolina, Susan Collins of Maine and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, all Republicans who have said they will vote to cut off debate.

"This agreement isn't everything I'd hoped it would be, and it isn't what I would have written," Hatch said. "But sometimes the answer has to be yes. The reality is that Republicans only control one-half of one-third of government."

The deal, struck by Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Rep. Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., sailed through the House last week but ran into a toxic mix of re-election politics, presidential positioning and hurt feelings in the Senate.

Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the Democratic major-



Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), right, and Max Baucus (D-Mont.) listen to testimony in Washington, DC.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

ity leader, held a rare session Sunday to formally file to end debate on the measure. Business groups, including the Business Roundtable, which represents the chief executives of the largest U.S. corporations, pressed Senate Re-

publicans to get on board, countering pressure from conservative groups that oppose the deal.

And with a public showdown looming, undecided Republicans opted Monday to come off the fence.

□



# Has the Fed been fueling bubbles? You be the judge

**JOSH BOAK**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Federal Reserve's super-low interest-rate policies have inflated a slew of dangerous asset bubbles. Or so critics say.

They say stocks are at unsustainable prices. California homes are fetching frothy sums. Same with farmland, Bitcoins and rare Scotch.

Under Chairman Ben Bernanke, the Fed has aggressively bought bonds to try to cut borrowing rates and accelerate spending, investing and hiring. Its supporters say low rates have helped nourish the still-modest economic rebound. Yet some say the Fed-engineered rates have produced an economic sugar high that risks triggering a crash akin to the tech-stock swoon in 2000 and the housing bust in 2006. On the eve of the Fed's latest policy meeting, here's why — or why not — these assets might be in a bubble:

## -SCOTCH

Rare decades-old Scotch could give investors a ter-

rible hangover. Over the past five years, prices have shot up 170 percent, according to an index of auctions and sales by the Scotland-based firm Whisky Highland. It's among the investments that have grown

while firms such as Whisky Highland offer guidelines for investing. There's "a perception that this is a good area of investment at a time when more traditional investments are producing low rates of return," says

tastes the same. It generates returns by appreciating in price, not producing income as stocks, bonds or real estate can. By definition, whisky, wine and fine art are speculative and can abruptly lose favor

with investors. Not to mention: The \$41,077 spent on a 60-year old Macallan — which sold last month at a Hong Kong auction — can literally be poured down the drain.

vember that a worrisome 17 percent of the U.S. home market is overvalued, a risk because much of the buying is tied to investments and house-flipping. Coastal California is "approaching bubble-year peaks," with Bay Area prices nearing the "environment in 2003," Fitch said. Some leading forecasters have also warned of bubbles in London and areas of Canada and Norway. New York University economist Nouriel Roubini worries about bubbles in Switzerland, France, India, Indonesia, Turkey, Israel and Brazil. These countries have accelerating prices, rising price-to-income ratios and huge proportions of mortgage debt as a share of total household debt.



**In this photo, Monte McMillan cuts wheat with his combine, on his farmland near Moscow, Idaho, which is shown in the background. Low interest rates have encouraged farmers to expand their holdings over the past five years.**

**(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)**

more alluring as interest rates have fallen. The buyers aren't just tycoons with tweed blazers, empty snifters and money to burn. Auctions are fetching bids from Chinese nationals,

Martin Green, a whisky specialist for the auction house Bonhams.

## Why it's a bubble:

Regardless of how high someone bids, Scotch still

with investors. Not to mention: The \$41,077 spent on a 60-year old Macallan — which sold last month at a Hong Kong auction — can literally be poured down the drain.

## Why it isn't:

At least in the United States, some safety valves are in place that didn't exist during the previous housing bubble, Roubini wrote this month. Lending standards are tighter. Banks are cushioned from possible losses from greater capital in reserve. And homeowners have more home equity this time.

## -FARMLAND

Over the past five years, the cost of Iowa farmland has rocketed 118 percent to \$8,400 an acre, according to the Agriculture Department. Prices have more than doubled, too, in Kansas, Nebraska and North Dakota. The prices recall a 1970s-era boom. That ended with a bust that put many family farms into foreclosure, leading musicians such as Willie Nelson to start the Farm Aid benefit concerts.

## Why it's a bubble:

The Fed's low-rate policies have encouraged farmers to expand their holdings over the past five years. Ethanol subsidies led them to plant more corn as prices for that crop rose during the past three years. "The bubble has been climbing," said Dan Muhlbauer, a grain farmer who's also a Democratic representative in the Iowa House. □

## Why it isn't:

What inflates bubbles beyond rationality is greed. Green says most buyers acquire Scotch for other reasons: "the mystical allure of the taste," the thrill of the chase, the pursuit of status. "One of the motives for Chinese buyers is social aspiration," he says.

## -HOUSING

The last housing bubble ignited the worst economic catastrophe since the Great Depression. Home prices became inflated in part from an influx of cash and low rates driven by the Fed and other central banks. And in recent months, prices have again soared in some hot U.S. markets.

## Why it's a bubble:

It depends on location, location, location. All-cash sales, low rates and tight supplies have lifted prices in areas like New York City and Washington, D.C. Fitch Ratings estimated in No-

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## Evacuated Harvard campus buildings given the all clear

**DENISE LAVOIE**  
**Associated Press**

**CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP)** — Four buildings

on Harvard University's campus near Boston were evacuated for hours Monday, interrupting final exams, after police received a report that explosives may have been placed inside. The buildings were reopened after hours of searches. The FBI was investigating the report along with Cambridge and university police and other agencies, and the school said the buildings were evacuated out of an abundance of caution.

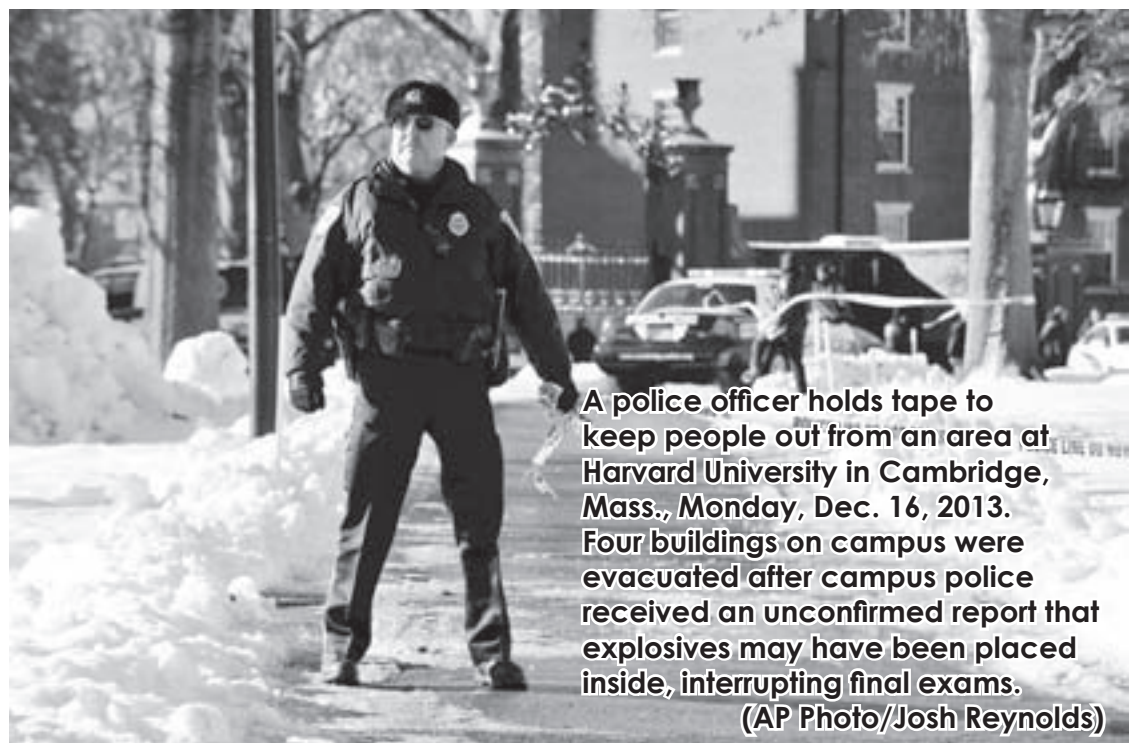
"Harvard's focus is on the safety of our students, faculty and staff," the university said in a statement. It would not immediately say after reopening all the buildings whether any explosives were found.

Three of the evacuated buildings — one a dorm, and two classroom buildings — border Harvard Yard, and the other was the science center at the Ivy League school in Cambridge. The mood on campus was calm as students streamed out of Harvard Yard on a frigid morning with temperatures in the 20s. The gates around the yard were closed and people were allowed to leave but not enter unless they had school IDs.

Juniors Alexander Ryjik of Alexandria, Virginia, and Diego Abrahao of Sunny Isles Beach, Florida, said their professor was handing out exam booklets for their Politics of American

Education class shortly after 9 a.m. when the alert went out that they had to leave Emerson Hall.

"I have a good guess somebody called it in so they wouldn't have to take an exam," Ryjik said. "It's frustrating because now the exam will have to be postponed." A classroom building was also briefly evacuated Monday at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, which has 16,000 undergraduates and graduate students who are also taking final exams this week. University police got a call from someone who said they had seen a person with a gun in the building, which was closed while university, Boston and state police searched it. They determined there was no one with a gun and the call is being investigated, said school spokesman DeWayne Lehman. Last month, another Ivy League school, Yale University in Connecticut, was locked down for nearly six hours while authorities investigated a phone call saying an armed man was heading to shoot it up, a warning they later said was likely a hoax. And in February, someone called in a hoax about a gunman on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, another elite school about two miles from Harvard. The university said the gunman was a staff member looking for revenge after the suicide of an Internet activist accused of illegally using MIT computers. □



A police officer holds tape to keep people out from an area at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., Monday, Dec. 16, 2013. Four buildings on campus were evacuated after campus police received an unconfirmed report that explosives may have been placed inside, interrupting final exams. (AP Photo/Josh Reynolds)



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## US stores have free rein to recoup theft losses

**COLLEEN LONG**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — People accused of shoplifting at Macy's huge flagship store in New York City are escorted by security guards to cells in "Room 140," where they can be held for hours, asked to sign an admission of guilt and pay hundreds in fines, sometimes without any conclusive proof they stole anything.

As shoppers jam stores ahead of the December holidays, claims of racial profiling at department stores in New York have helped expose the wide latitude that laws in at least 27 states give retailers to hold and fine shoplifting suspects, even if a person hasn't yet technically stolen anything, is wrongly accused or criminal charges are dropped.

"You must remember, these people are not police officers; they are store employees," said Faruk Usar, the attorney for a 62-year-old Turkish woman who sued Macy's, which some customers say bullied them into paying fines on the spot or harassed them with letters demanding payment. "When they are detained, they are not yet even in a real jail."

Industrywide, more than \$12 billion is lost to shoplifting each year. The laws, which vary on strictness and fine amounts, allow stores to try to recoup some losses. Under New York's longstanding law, retailers may collect a penalty of five times the cost of the stolen merchandise, up to \$500 per item, plus as much as \$1,500 if the merchandise isn't in a condition to be sold. A conviction is not

necessary to bring a civil claim.

Some customers say stores have harassed them into signing admissions of guilt in order to turn a profit — not just recoup a loss.

and changing practices. That agreement expired in 2008.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman is again investigating claims against retailers. Last week,

Rob Brown of the HBO show "Treme," who said he was stopped after buying a \$1,300 Movado watch for his mother this summer. Brown, 29, said he too was taken to Room 140. There,



**This photo shows a view of a Macy's flagship store in New York. Claims over racial profiling at department stores in New York have helped expose the practice in more than 40 states of retailers holding shoplifting suspects and assessing fines, even if a person hasn't yet technically stolen anything. At Macy's flagship store, suspects are held in cells, asked to sign an admission of guilt and pay hundreds in fines.**

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

Retailers don't divulge how much money they recoup but use it in part to offset security costs, said Barbara Staib, spokeswoman for the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention. The total is a fraction of what they lose, she said.

But at least nine customers at the Macy's store immortalized in the movie "Miracle on 34th Street" say in lawsuits that the retailer is abusing the law, wrongly targeting minorities and holding customers for hours, years after it settled similar claims brought by the state attorney general by paying a \$600,000 fine

New York state stores agreed to post a customer "bill of rights" on their websites explicitly prohibiting profiling and unreasonable searches.

The racial profiling allegations started in New York this fall with a different retailer, Barneys New York, after two black customers said they were stopped while buying expensive merchandise. The retailer has said it does not profile, and neither customer was asked to sign a confession or pay a fine.

But the allegations grew to include Macy's. Among those complaining was

he said in a federal suit filed by attorney Doug Wigdor, others being held were all "individuals of color." He was released, he said, when people realized he was a celebrity.

Elina Kazan, a spokeswoman for Cincinnati-based Macy's, said she couldn't comment on pending litigation.

Usar's client, Ayla Gursoy, was detained in 2010 after she carried two coats in her arms up several flights of stairs in the flagship store, according to her suit. Store security accused Gursoy, who speaks little English, of trying to steal. □

## GM to invest \$1.3B in five U.S. factories

**DETROIT (AP)** — Five General Motors factories in three states will soon share in a \$1.3 billion investment so they can make higher-quality pickup trucks and new fuel-efficient engines and transmissions.

GM says the money will go to the Flint, Michigan, assembly plant; an engine plant in Romulus, Michigan, near Detroit; a transmission factory in Toledo, Ohio; and a casting plant in Bedford, Indiana. Most of the work will be done during the next two years. It's unclear how many jobs the investment will create. GM would say only that it will create or keep 1,000 positions.

Nearly half the money, \$600 million, will go to the Flint factory for a new paint shop and other upgrades. The plant makes the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickup trucks.

GM also will spend \$493 million at its Romulus engine plant so it can build a new V-6 engine and 10-speed automatic transmissions that will make vehicles more efficient.

Around \$121 million will go to set up a manufacturing logistics center at the Detroit-Hamtramck factory, and \$31 million will go to the Toledo transmission plant so it can crank out more six-speed automatic transmissions.

In addition, the Indiana plant will get \$29.2 million to make parts for the 10-speed transmissions and for six-speed transmission components. □



## US Financial Front:

# American factory output rises solid 0.6% in November

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. factories increased output in November for the fourth straight month, led by a surge in auto production. The gains show manufacturing is strengthening and could help boost economic growth at the end of the year. Factory production rose 0.6 percent in November after a 0.5 percent gain in October, the Federal Reserve said Monday.

Production of motor vehicles and parts increased 3.4 percent, rebounding from a 1.3 percent decline in October. Factories also stepped up production of home electronics and chemical products.

Industrial production, which includes manufacturing, mining and utilities, rose 1.1 percent in November. It was the fourth straight gain. Colder-than-average temperatures drove a 3.9 percent surge in utility production. Mining output jumped 1.7 percent to reverse a similar decline in October. Overall production for the first time surpassed the pre-recession peak set in December 2007, the month the Great Recession began. Output is now 21 percent above its recession low hit in June 2009, the month the downturn ended.

The report of healthier output at U.S. factories helped drive a rally on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average soared more than 160 points in the first hour of trading.

Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said the gains in mining and utilities can be volatile. He noted that the best guide of the underlying trend is manufacturing output.

"It suggests that producers are benefiting from stronger demand at home and overseas," Dales said.

Factories are busier in part because overseas growth has picked up and the housing recovery has driven more demand for furniture and other wood products. Automakers are also having their best year for sales since the recession. Separately, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said manufacturing in the New York region grew for the sixth time in the past seven months, although the gains were only modest.

The solid gains at U.S. factories follow other positive signs for manufacturing last month.

A closely watched report from the Institute for Supply Management showed factory activity climbed in November at the fastest pace in 2 ½ years. Facto-



Technicians repair machinery at Madelaine Chocolates factory in the Queens borough of New York. The Federal Reserve reported solid gains in output from U.S. factories, mines and utilities in November on Monday, Dec. 16, 2013. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

ries ramped up production, stepped up hiring and received orders at a healthy clip.

And the government's November employment report showed that factories added 27,000 jobs last month, the fourth straight month of gains and the most since March 2012.

The pickup at factories could help an economy that is starting to accelerate.

The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 3.6 per-

cent in the July-September quarter. Nearly half of the growth came from a build-up in business stockpiles, which can be volatile.

Consumer spending slowed to the weakest pace since the end of the recession. But that was mostly because of a decline in utility spending. Spending on goods rose at the fastest pace since early 2012.

Companies could slow their inventory growth in the October-December quarter if they don't see enough

demand from consumers. That would weigh on overall economic growth.

Many economists are predicting growth will slow to an annual rate of between 2 percent and 2.5 percent. Still, a recent government report showed restocking rose in October at the fastest pace in nine months. At the same time, consumers stepped up spending at retail businesses in November. If those trends continue, growth could be stronger. □

## Foreign holdings of US Treasury securities rise again in October

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign buyers of U.S. Treasury securities increased their holdings for a third month in October, despite budget battles in Washington that shut down the government for 16 days that month.

The Treasury Department says total foreign holdings edged up 0.01 percent in October to \$5.65 trillion after a 1 percent gain in September. Holdings had fallen from April through

July, likely reflecting concerns about rising interest rates. In October, holdings were 1.2 percent below the record high of \$5.72 trillion reached in March.

China, the largest foreign buyer of Treasury debt, boosted its holdings 0.8 percent in October to \$1.3 trillion. Japan, the second-largest buyer, trimmed its holdings 0.3 percent to \$1.17 trillion.

An impasse over the budget led to a 16-day partial government shutdown in October. □

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## US: Oil output up to near record; prices stay tame

AP Energy Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Energy Department says the United States' energy picture is getting ever rosier. Production is rising, consumption is slowing, and prices are expected to remain in check.

According to the Energy Department's annual outlook, domestic oil output may regain the peak it reached in 1970 over the next two years and gasoline prices will fall over the same period to just over \$3 per gallon (3.8 liters).

Natural gas production and use will continue to soar, demand for gasoline will fall, and energy-related emissions of carbon dioxide will remain below 2005 levels for the next quarter-century.

"The report confirms that the United States really is experiencing an energy revolution," said Daniel Yergin, vice chairman of the research and analysis group IHS and author of "The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World."

The increased oil and gas production, Yergin said, is giving "a big boost to the U.S. economy at a time when it really needs a boost."

The outlook, produced every year by the Energy Information Administration, projects U.S. production, consumption, and prices for energy through 2040. On Monday the EIA revealed the first part of the outlook, its "reference case," which assumes stable domestic and global markets and policies.

Here are some highlights of the report:

— U.S. crude oil production will rise by 800,000 barrels per day through 2016 to reach 9.5 million barrels per day, just shy of the 1970 record of 9.6 million barrels per day. It will then level off and slowly decline after 2020.

— Natural gas production will grow steadily throughout the period, and reach 37.6 trillion cubic feet per year by 2040— 56 percent above 2012 levels.

— Total energy imports will fall to just 4 percent of domestic consumption by 2040 as the nation produces more oil and natural gas while using less, down from a high of 30 percent in 2005.

— Cars will use less energy in 2040 than they do now, and less than the EIA predicted last year. The government now assumes the number of miles traveled will grow more slowly than previously forecast because of demographic changes such as slower population growth. At the same time, vehicle fuel economy is expected to improve dramatically because of minimum fuel economy standards. That will reduce energy use for cars by 24 percent between 2012 and 2040.

— The average retail price of gasoline, in today's dollars, will fall to \$3.03 per gallon (3.8 liters) by 2017. It will then rise, reaching \$3.90 by 2040, lower than forecast last year. Prices for natural gas and electricity are expected to rise, but moderately. □

## US FDA:

## Anti-bacterial soaps under scrutiny

MATTHEW PERRONE

AP Health Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — After more than 40 years of study, the U.S. government said Monday it has no evidence that the anti-bacterial chemicals used in countless common soaps and washes help prevent the spread of germs, and it is reviewing research suggesting they may pose health risks.

Regulators at the Food and Drug Administration

substantiate that," said Stuart Levy of Tufts University School of Medicine.

Under a proposed rule released Monday, the agency, which monitors product safety, will require manufacturers to prove that anti-bacterial soaps and body washes are safe and more effective than plain soap and water. Products that are not shown to be safe and effective by late 2016 would have to be reformulated, relabeled or

million to \$368.8 million to comply with the new regulations, including reformulating some products and removing marketing claims from others.

The rule does not apply to hand sanitizers, most of which use alcohol rather than anti-bacterial chemicals.

The agency will accept data from companies and researchers for one year before beginning to finalize the rule.

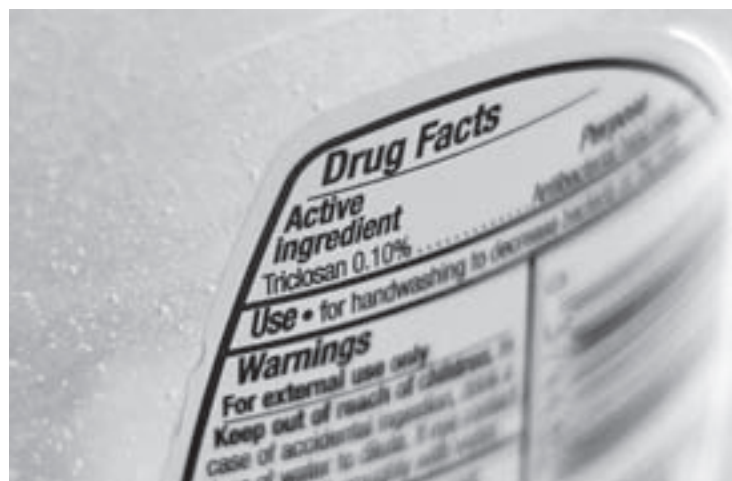
The proposal comes more than 40 years after the FDA began evaluating triclosan, triclocarban and similar ingredients.

Ultimately, the government only agreed to publish its findings after a three-year legal battle with the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group that accused the FDA of delaying action on potentially dangerous chemicals.

Triclosan is found in an estimated 75 percent of anti-bacterial liquid soaps and body washes sold in the U.S., including some brands of Dial from Henkel AG & Co., one of the nation's largest soap makers.

While the rule only applies to personal hygiene products, it has implications for a broader \$1 billion industry that includes thousands of anti-bacterial products, including kitchen knives, toys, pacifiers and toothpaste. Over the last 20 years, companies have added triclosan and other cleaners to thousands of household products, touting their germ-killing benefits.

The FDA was tasked with confirming those benefits in 1972, as part of a law designed to set guidelines for dozens of common anti-bacterial cleaners. □



**This photo shows Dawn Ultra antibacterial soap in a kitchen in Chicago. The Food and Drug Administration says Monday, Dec. 16, 2013, there is no evidence that antibacterial chemicals used in liquid soaps and washes help prevent the spread of germs, and there is some evidence they may pose health risks.**

(AP Photo/Kiichiro Sato)

said they are revisiting the safety of chemicals such as triclosan in light of recent studies that suggest the substances can interfere with hormone levels and spur the growth of drug-resistant bacteria.

The government's preliminary ruling lends new support to outside researchers who have long argued that the chemicals are, at best, ineffective and at worst, a threat to public health.

"The FDA is finally making a judgment call here and asking industry to show us that these products are better than soap and water, and the data don't

removed from the market. "I suspect there are a lot of consumers who assume that by using an anti-bacterial soap product they are protecting themselves from illness, protecting their families," said Sandra Kweder, deputy director in the FDA's drug center. "But we don't have any evidence that that is really the case over simple soap and water."

A spokesman for the cleaning product industry said the FDA already has "a wealth of data" showing the benefits of its products. An FDA analysis estimates it will cost companies \$112.2



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## Amid street protests, Ukraine economy under threat

GARY  
MARIA DANILOVA  
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Hidden behind the tug of war

PEACH

over whether Ukraine will cast its lot with Europe or Russia is the prospect of bankruptcy. Someone will need to chip in at least

\$10 billion in the coming months, if Ukraine wants to keep its economy afloat. With talks on resuming credit from the International

Monetary Fund stalled, President Viktor Yanukovich heads to Moscow on Tuesday to see what Russia might offer in exchange for freezing a strategic trade deal with the European Union.

Analysts say that if President Vladimir Putin offers anything to Ukraine, one of Europe's poorest countries, it could be a mix of credit, investment pledges, and a discount on energy prices, particularly natural gas. But the Russian leader may not be generous, given the crisis being endured by Yanukovich and his ruling party and the flip-flopping by Ukraine's leadership about whether its allegiance lies with Moscow or Brussels.

Putin's aim "will be to keep Ukraine on the edge and dependent on Russian credits, to continue to pressurize Ukraine to eventually sign" the Moscow-led Customs Union, an organization that now includes Belarus and Kazakhstan, said Timothy Ash, an emerging markets analyst with Standard Bank in London.

"This is still Putin's No. 1 strategic objective, as part of his grand neo-imperial

design to rebuild Russia's great power status," said Ash.

But a large part of Ukraine's 46-million population opposes this.

Massive crowds have protested in the center of Kiev for weeks against Yanukovich's decision last month to shun closer ties with the EU and to push his country toward Moscow. The demonstrations were galvanized after dozens of activists were injured when riot police violently broke up a small rally on Nov. 30. Yanukovich is hoping he will find some sort of redemption when he meets his potential savior, Putin. Without cash and cheaper natural gas, Ukraine's public finances will be increasingly untenable and could lead the country toward a default next year.

First Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Arbusov said earlier this month that Ukraine needs a loan of some \$10 billion to meet its payment obligations. However, the central bank has been burning through its reserves and only had \$18.8 billion as of Dec. 1, down a quarter from the same period last year. □



A Pro-European Union activists builds a symbolic fence using wooden bricks with names of Ukrainian cities during a rally in Independence Square in Kiev, Ukraine, Monday, Dec. 16, 2013. (AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

## Moscow: Missiles in western Russia legitimate

V. ISACHENKOV  
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Lithuania expressed concern on Monday about signals that Russia has deployed state-of-the-art missiles in a territory that borders the NATO countries of Lithuania and Poland. The U.S. State Department also said that it has urged Russia to avoid taking any steps that could destabilize that region. Russia's Defense Ministry gave an oblique response Monday to a report in the German daily Bild claiming that Russia has sent the Iskander short-range missiles to its westernmost Kaliningrad exclave on the Baltic

Sea. The ministry said the missiles had been positioned in an unspecified location in western Russia, and argued that the deployment doesn't contradict any international treaties.

While the ministry was coy about the exact location of the missiles, the Kremlin-friendly daily Izvestia, which reportedly has close links to Russian security agencies, said the missiles had been deployed to the exclave more than a year ago. Asked about the reported missile deployment, U.S. State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf said Washington has

"shared with Russia the concerns that countries in the neighborhood have ... regarding Russia's deployment of the Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad." □

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## Chile: Bachelet has big win in presidential vote

**LUIS ANDRES HENAO**

**Associated Press**

**SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)** — President-elect Michelle Bachelet vowed on Monday to initiate profound social changes in Chile, a day after winning the seat with the biggest victory in eight decades.

been easy to change the world?"

Bachelet also met with congressional party leaders who will be key to approving her \$15 billion program to overhaul education, improve health care and reduce the vast gap between rich and poor.

for extreme positions."

The center-right Renovation National's president, Carlos Larrain, was more accepting, saying "Michelle Bachelet is the president of Chile and she's been elected with a very solid majority."

Bachelet's center-left New



**Chile's President-elect Michelle Bachelet talks with journalist during a press conference in Santiago, Chile, Monday, Dec 16, 2013. Bachelet vowed to initiate profound changes after winning the seat by the biggest victory in eight decades. But analysts noted that the 41 percent voter turnout was the lowest since Chile's return to democracy, suggesting she'll need to move deliberately, not radically, when she begins her second turn in office next year.**

(AP Photo/Luis Hidalgo)

Analysts, however, noted that the 41 percent voter turnout was the lowest since Chile's return to democracy, suggesting she'll need to move deliberately, not radically, when she begins her second turn in office next year.

Bachelet will be sworn in on March 11, 2014, giving outgoing President Sebastian Pinera nearly three months left in office. They shared an hourlong breakfast at Bachelet's home on Monday to discuss the transition.

"The social and political conditions are here and at last the moment has arrived," Bachelet said after winning 62 percent of the vote in a runoff against the center-right's candidate, Evelyn Matthei.

"If I'm here it's because we believe that a Chile for everyone is necessary," Bachelet added. "It won't be easy, but when has it

The moderate socialist ended her 2006-10 presidency with an 84 percent approval rating despite failing to achieve any major changes. This time, many vow to take over the streets again if politicians don't follow through.

Chile is the world's top copper exporter, and its fast-growing economy, low unemployment and inflation are the envy of Latin America. But millions of Chileans who have protested in recent years say more of the copper wealth should be used to reduce income inequality and fix public schools.

Matthei's 37 percent was the center-right's worst performance in two decades, and yet Jovino Novoa, vice president of the right-wing Democratic Independent Union, asserted Monday that Bachelet "doesn't have the representation nor the mandate

Majority coalition, which now includes Communist Party members, enjoys a majority in both houses that will be key to achieving some of her tax and education reforms. But changing the Pinochet-era electoral system and constitution require super-majorities.

"She'll achieve some things: The tax reform is in her pocket. ... I think student leaders who have been elected to Congress will sign off on educational reform. Bachelet's expectations are high, but things will be achieved," said Kenneth Bunker, a Chilean political scientist.

Patricio Navia, a Chilean political scientist at New York University, sees a tough road for Bachelet, who ran the U.N.'s women's agency after leaving the presidency.

"Her biggest challenge will be to match expectations

## Victim's lawyer seeks murder conviction for Amanda Knox

**COLLEEN BARRY**

**Associated Press**

**FLORENCE, Italy (AP)** — A lawyer urged an Italian appeals court on Monday to convict Amanda Knox of murdering British student Meredith Kercher and denounced as "unbearable" that the American was soliciting donations in Kercher's memory.

Francesco Maresca, in his closing arguments on behalf of the Kercher family in the third trial of Knox and co-defendant Raffaele Sollecito, urged the eight lay jurors on the panel of 10 to disregard publicity over the case as well as Knox's own statements, including her criticism of Italy's judicial system.

"She has become a well-known person. You know she signed contracts for millions of dollars for her book. She has someone who takes care of her public relations. She has a personal website where she invites people to collect donations in the memory of the victim, Meredith Kercher, which is an unbearable contradiction for the family," Maresca said. He said the world's attention has focused on Knox, while "the victim has fallen into oblivion, to the immense pain of the Kercher family." Knox is soliciting donations on her website for her defense as well as a separate, as yet-unspecified project in Kercher's memory. Knox's lawyer, Carlo Dalla Vedova, said after the hearing that she was doing so out of the friendship she felt for Kercher, and that the criticism of her actions was irrelevant to the case.

Maresca also urged the court to disregard Sollecito's statement to the court last month professing his innocence, noting that he had "just returned from a vacation in Santo Domingo, where he is again in these days, as we are here hearing such an important trial against him." Kercher, 21, was brutally murdered in November 2007 in the apartment she shared with Knox in the picturesque uni-



**This image released by NBC shows Amanda Knox during an interview on the "Today" show, Friday, Sept. 20, 2013 in New York.**

(AP Photo/NBC, Peter Kramer)

versity town of Perugia. She had been raped and her throat slashed, her body left beneath a blanket in her bedroom. Prosecutors claim Knox and Sollecito carried out the murder with a third man, Ivory Coast-born Rudy Guede, who is serving a 16-year sentence. The case was being tried for a third time after Italy's highest court vacated a 2011 appellate court ruling throwing out their initial murder convictions. The high court's scathing opinion tore apart the appellate court's decision to free the pair as full of errors and contradictions. Knox, now 26, spent four years in prison until she was freed in 2011 and returned to the United States, where she remains. Sollecito, 29, has attended several hearings of the current appeal. Defendants in Italy are not required to attend trials.

Maresca urged the Florence appeals court to find Knox and Sollecito guilty of Kercher's murder, backing the state prosecutor's demands for sentences of 26 years for the murder and a four-year sentence for Knox for slander - up from the three years already confirmed by Italy's highest court. He sought damages of 25 million euros (\$34 million) for the family.

Maresca blasted the ruling overturning the convictions, calling it "a run-down shack razed to the ground by the high court," and said the defendants' alibis "were all failed and false." □





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## Israel, Lebanon move to ease tensions after skirmish

**JOSEF FEDERMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israel and Lebanon on Monday rushed to ease tensions following a deadly border skirmish that left one Israeli soldier dead, with the enemy countries holding a face-to-face meeting with U.N. peacekeepers and pledging their commitment to a seven-year-old cease-fire. The U.N. peacekeeping force along the volatile border, UNIFIL, said it called the meeting to "establish the facts and circumstances" behind the flare-up in violence and to restore a cease-fire that has been in place since a 2006 war. It said both sides pledged to preserve "calm and stability."

In Sunday's incident, a Lebanese sniper opened fire at an Israeli vehicle traveling near the border area of Rosh Hanikra, killing a soldier inside. Several hours later, the Israeli military said it shot two Lebanese soldiers after spotting "suspicious movement" in the same area. It was the heaviest fighting between the enemy countries in more than three years and drew condemnations and threats of retaliation from Israel.

Late Monday, the Lebanese army distanced itself from the incident, saying the shooting was the result of an "individual act" by a soldier.

It said a military committee was investigating the incident and was coordinating with the U.N. peace-



Israeli soldiers guard near the border between northern Israel and Lebanon, Monday, Dec. 16, 2013. Israel and Lebanon on Monday rushed to ease tensions following a deadly border skirmish that left one Israeli soldier dead.

(AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

keeping mission. With the shooter in custody, there was no word on a motive for the attack and no men-

tion of the two soldiers allegedly shot by Israel. The Lebanese army stressed its full commitment to U.N.

resolutions, including maintaining the 2006 cease-fire. The same language, and near apology for the in-

cident, was rare for the Lebanese military, which is usually quick to point out Israeli border transgressions. It suggested that Lebanon was keen to avoid a conflagration on its border at a time of severe tensions resulting from the civil war in neighboring Syria.

Likewise, Israeli officials tried to lower the tensions. "The idea is to bring the situation back to normal and not aggravate the situation," said Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, a military spokesman. The border has remained mostly quiet since the monthlong war in the summer of 2006, though there have been sporadic outbursts of violence. In the most serious incident, Lebanese forces killed a high-ranking Israeli officer in 2010, claiming the Israeli army had crossed the border while uprooting a tree. □

## Wave of attacks kill 65 people in Iraq

**SAMEER N. YACIOUB**  
**Associated Press**

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — A double car bombing and a shooting killed 34 Shiite Muslims on pilgrimage in Iraq on Monday, the deadliest in a wave of attacks across the country that left at least 65 dead. It was the bloodiest day of violence in nearly two months.

Police officials said the worst attack took place Monday night in the southern Baghdad suburb of al-Rasheed, when two car bombs struck a group of

Shiite pilgrims walking to the holy Shiite city of Karbala, killing 23 and wounding 55. Hundreds of thousands of Shiite pilgrims are making their way to the city to commemorate Arbaeen, the end of 40 days of mourning following the anniversary of the death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Imam Hussein, a revered Shiite figure.

Earlier in the day, gunmen opened fire on a bus in Mosul that was carrying Shiite pilgrims traveling also to Karbala, killing 11 and

wounding eight. Mosul is located about 360 kilometers (225 miles) northwest of Baghdad.

Sunni Muslim insurgents in Iraq frequently attack Shiites, who they consider infidels. Usually, Shiite marches to holy cities are poorly protected by Iraqi security forces. In other violence on Monday, a group of suicide bombers launched a brazen attack on a police station in the town of Beiji, a former insurgent stronghold 250 kilometers (155 miles) north of Baghdad, where

a suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden car into the main gate of the town police station.

That explosion paved the way for three other suicide bombers who were on foot to storm inside and blow themselves up in the building, a police officer said. Eight policemen, including an officer, were killed while five were wounded in the attack, he said.

Later in the morning, several bombings hit different parts of Baghdad and northern Iraq, police said. □



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# Saudi university girls have freedoms checked at the gates

**AYA BATRAWY**  
**Associated Press**

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)**

— Within their female-only campuses, women at Saudi Arabia's universities let loose. Trendy sneakers, colorful tops, a myriad of hairstyles. Some experiment with bleach blonde or even dip-dyed blue hair. The more adventurous ones have cropped their hair into short buzzes. In their bags, the textbooks vary, but one item is man-

curriculum for women. For years, Saudi King Abdullah has been making startling, if incremental, moves to ease restrictions on women in the kingdom, where the word of strict ultraconservative Wahhabi clerics is virtually law.

But a look inside the women's universities that have sprung up over the past decade illustrates how change only goes so far. Within the campus grounds — a world of strictly fe-

work, get an education or travel under "guardianship laws."

With those restrictions in place, women's rights advocates say, the king's drive to modernize the oil-rich nation will always hit a wall.

"No matter what happens, women are still bound by male guardianship laws and strict cultural norms," said Aziza Yousef, a professor at the women's college of King Saud University. "If

cent of undergraduates, or around 474,000 students, women hold only a third of the jobs in the public sector, and in the private sector the percentage of working women is in the low single digits.

The education push fuels young Saudi women's ambitions, but they still struggle to navigate the limited possibilities.

"I want to be independent and work before I get married," said Shaden el-Ham-

multinational corporations operating in the kingdom. If she can't, she'll stay in school for a Master's.

The overhaul of women's education over the past decade has been significant. Previously, women's colleges were overseen by the Department of Religious Guidance, putting female students under the direct power of clerics. In 2002, they were put under the Education Ministry, which oversees male education. Five years later, the first full women's university was created, the Princess Nora University in Riyadh.

In 2009, the country's first gender-mixed university, the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, was opened. It was a show of defiance by the king against the country's ultraconservatives, on whose support his power is partly based.

When one prominent government cleric criticized the university, the king fired him. Still, it remains the only university where men and women attend lectures together.

Princess Nora University represents the kingdom's focus on beefing up separate women's schooling — and it provides the most visible contrast between campus and street life.

Curricula for women remain limited. No universities offer engineering degrees for women, and many courses are geared toward traditional fields such as nursing and teaching. With clerics opposed to women TV newscasters, communications and journalism degrees are rare — the King Saud University in Riyadh, for example, only began to offer one for female undergraduates this year. □



**This Monday, Dec. 9, 2013 photo shows worshippers outside of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The Saudi society is governed by a mix of ancient customs and conservative interpretations of Islam. Most women cover their face and by law must wear long flowing black abayas in public.**

**(AP Photo/Aya Batrawy)**

datory: a floor-length black abaya robe that each must cover herself with when she steps through the university gates back to the outside world of the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia has spent billions of dollars to improve women's education, part of a broader drive to empower young Saudis for the marketplace. That has meant improved campuses, better facilities and research programs and a slight expansion in the

male students, teachers and staff — women have some greater freedoms. But outside, women remain bound by a web of customs and religious strictures. Women are kept segregated from men, are barred from simple rights like driving and required to adhere to strict dress codes that often require them to cover their hair and face with a black veil. They are ruled by the whim of male relatives whose permission is required for a woman to

you are lucky and your male guardian is good, you will move ahead in life fine. If you are in a family where the male guardian is strict, your life will be paralyzed." Women also face limited job opportunities once they leave the university. Women's participation in the workplace is minimal, in part due to segregation requirements and traditions that encourage women to focus on marriage and children. Although girls make up almost 58 per-

cent of undergraduates, dan, a 22-year-old studying an English degree at Riyadh's Imam Mohammed bin Saud Islamic University. She's lucky in that her family is not pressing her to get married — her father tells her to wait another six years before thinking about it. But she said she knows getting a job is difficult. She doesn't want to be a teacher, the job of an estimated 78 percent of the women who work. So she talks about trying to find a position at one of the





## Digicel hosts Year End Celebration at Alhambra Ballroom!

**EAGLE BEACH** - Aruba's branch of the global telecommunication giant Digicel, recently enjoyed a year end celebration at the beautifully decorated Alhambra Ballroom. The party took off with a cocktail hour, and was followed by a delicious dinner buffet, presented by Divi Resorts' culinary brigade.

After dinner, General Manager Remko van der Veldt thanked his team members for their valuable contributions to the success of the company during 2013, expressing his Happy-Holidays wishes, and looking forward to more accom-



plishments in 2014. Van Der Veldt also revealed some of Digicel's plans for 2014, that will no doubt offer a bigger variety of services, to those already available in Aruba in the personal and com-

mercial market segments. The party also celebrated some important anniversaries, recognizing Digicel's diligent members for their long-term commitment to the company: Daniel Gomez and Hubert Hennep concluded ten years on the job and Lili Weststrate, Lauren Eman and Angela Pacheco, marked their fifth anniversary. The highlight of the evening, the Employee of the Year announcement established that Jeremain Maduro received the most votes among Digicel staffers, landing him the coveted title as the Employee of the Year of 2013! Jeremain, who is a Team



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## Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa Gets Fit with GM 5k Challenge



**PALM BEACH** - Earlier this year, the GM's 5km (3.1 mile) road race was organized in an effort to encourage the colleagues at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa to get fit, get healthy and eat better. A few colleagues pitched up for the first event, but it

was great fun, so they did it again on two more occasions with an ever growing number of competitors. In total this year the management team at the resort has lost over 1,000 pounds in weight altogether, in an effort to get fitter and healthier. A real achieve-

ment which the athletic General Manager of the resort, Mark Lyttleton-Frances is very proud of. On Saturday 14th December at 5pm, the race was on again, to see who can beat the General Manager at his own game. With three wins under the belt, Mark



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Lyttleton-Frances became the target of a fair amount of discussion, will he lead the race again or will the Young Guns from the pool and beach outrun him?? With over 30 competitors turning out in an effort to show their mettle, the road race took off at 5pm. The race, let by Policemen on Harley Davidson motorbikes, was cheered on by guests and associates. The group of runners trotted down to Eagle Beach, then turned around at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino and returned to Palm Beach, with Manuel Reyes posting 21:10, Chaim Alvarez 22:07, Mark Lyttle-

ton-Frances 22:35, Rufino Rodriguez 23:23 and Mark Naber, the Director of Food & Beverage, 24:11. In the spirit of giving however at this time of the year, the resort decided to make this a charity race, where all competitors paid a 10 Florin entry fee. However since the General Manager was defeated all competitors were refunded their entry fee while the General Manager was charged with the total amount, Awg 310, as a donation to the Aruba Animal Shelter. Pictured here, lean and fit and having fun, the Radisson team runs the 6k challenge. □



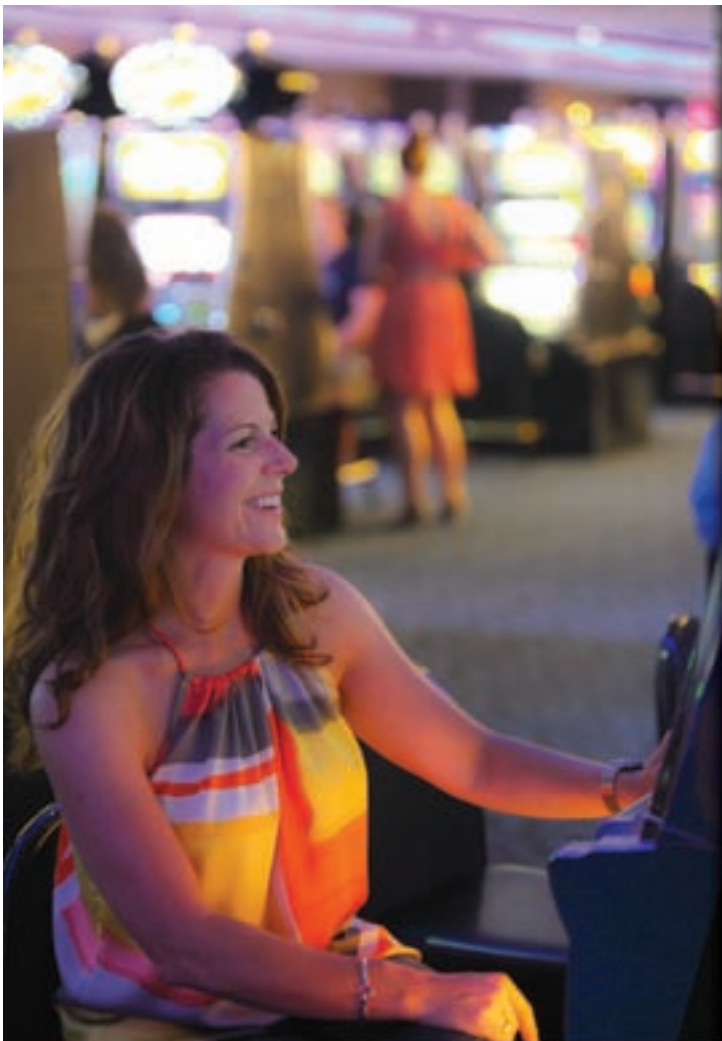
## Richard van der Wal 14-fold Aruban Sunfish Sailing Champion



**ORANJESTAD** – Richard van der Wal recently won the Aruban Sunfish Sailing Championship 2013. The performance was remarkable since Van der Wal won the championship for the 14th time since 1996. Competition for second and third was fierce with Randy Brown becoming

second and Theo Poiesz claiming third. The ranking list 2013 of Sunfish Club was won this year by Richard van der Wal followed by Job Laboyrie (2nd) and Peter Prinsen (3rd). In addition to the championship, the ranking list also entails other friendly and long distance races.

The "wisselstrop", a trophy for encouragement, was awarded this year to Frank Bonset who made his come-back. During the year there was international participation with one competitor from Bonaire, one from St. Maarten and one from The Netherlands. Next to the competition there was more attention for recreational sailing and cooperation with other clubs such as the Youth Watersports Aruba Foundation (SYWA). During a closing dinner the board of Sunfish Club Aruba (SCA) congratulated Richard van der Wal for his exceptional performance and handed him the "Ernie Kervel rotating trophy". Due to her great stability the Sunfish is very suitable for Aruba's coastal waters. New members are more than welcome. More information is available on the new Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/sunfishclubaruba](http://www.facebook.com/sunfishclubaruba). □



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## NHL Capsules

# Rangers rally to beat Flames in shootout

**The Associated Press**  
**RANGERS 4, FLAMES 3, SO**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Benoit Pouliot scored in the seventh round of the shootout as New York rallied to beat Calgary for its first win on a long homestand. Pouliot scored the fourth goal of the Rangers' first shootout of the season, and Henrik Lundqvist stopped Mikael Backlund to give the Rangers the win. New York is 1-3-1 on its team-record, nine-game homestand. Derek Stepan and Carl Hagelin scored to erase the Rangers' early 2-0 deficit, and Chris Kreider made it 3-3 with 7:53 left in regulation. **CAPITALS 5, FLYERS 4, SO WASHINGTON (AP)** — Alex Ovechkin scored with 48 seconds left and goalie Phillip Grubauer came off for an extra attacker to cap a late three-goal rally as the Washington Capitals went on to beat the Philadelphia Flyers 5-4 in a shootout Sunday. Mike Green cut Washington's deficit to 4-2 with 8:40 remaining, and Dmitry Orlov pulled the Capitals within one with 3:31 to go. The two defensemen scored on long slap shots. Ovechkin then tied it with his NHL-leading 27th goal. In the shootout, Eric Fehr



New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, of Sweden, celebrates after making the game-winning save against the Calgary Flames during the shootout portion of an NHL hockey game Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, in New York. The Rangers won 4-3 in a shootout.

Associated Press

and Nicklas Backstrom for Washington and Grubauer made two saves on three shots to give Washington an improbable victory in the first meeting of the teams since they brawled at the end of the Capitals' 7-0 victory in Philadelphia on Nov. 1. Marcus Johansson had a first-period goal for Washington. Claude Giroux, Mark Streit, Sean Couturier and Jacob Voracek scored for Philadelphia, and Michael Raffl had three assists. **BLACKHAWKS 3, KINGS 1 CHICAGO (AP)** — Jonathan Toews set up two of Chicago's three first-period goals as the Blackhawks cooled off Los Angeles in a rematch of last season's Western Conference finals. Rookie Antti Raanta made 21 saves to help Chicago bounce back from a 7-3 loss at Toronto on Saturday night. Marian Hossa had a short-handed score that snapped Los Angeles' NHL-record streak of 18 games without allowing a first-period goal. Kris Versteeg and Patrick Sharp also scored for Chicago. Alec Martinez scored for Los Angeles.

Continued on page 20

# Manning honored as SI's Sportsman of the Year

**The Associated Press**  
 Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning is Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year. Manning has led Denver to 11 wins from 14 games record this year, his second with the Broncos after missing the 2011 season with Indianapolis because of neck troubles that affected his right triceps.



In this Sept. 5, 2013, file photo, Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning (18) calls a play at the line of scrimmage during the first half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Denver.

Associated Press

He has thrown 47 touchdown passes, three behind of Tom Brady's NFL season record.

Manning is the fourth NFL quarterback to take the honor in the last nine years, following Brady in 2005, Brett Favre in 2007 and Drew Brees in 2010.

NBA star LeBron James was the winner last year. □



# Gay scores 26 to lead Kings past Rockets 106-91



Sacramento Kings forward Rudy Gay (8) is fouled by Houston Rockets point guard Aaron Brooks, left, as Rockets point guard Patrick Beverley, right, defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013. Associated Press

**The Associated Press**  
**SACRAMENTO, California (AP)** — Rudy Gay scored 26 points in his first home game since coming over in a trade from Toronto, leading the Sacramento Kings past the Houston Rockets 106-91 Sunday night.  
 Gay added five rebounds and four assists. He finished 10-for-20 shooting in a dazzling home debut for the Kings, who had lost eight of their past 10 games.  
 DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Isaiah Thomas added 19 points and eight assists to help Sacramento hold on to the lead for most of the final three quarters.  
 James Harden twisted his left ankle early in the third quarter but finished with 25 points, and Dwight Howard had 13 points and 10 rebounds while battling foul trouble in a disappointing end to Houston's cramped three-game road trip. The Rockets lost at Portland on Thursday and won at Golden State on Friday.  
**TRAIL BLAZERS 111, PISTONS 109, OT**  
**AUBURN HILLS, Michigan** — Damian Lillard hit a spinning fadeaway with one-tenth

of a second left in overtime to lift Portland over Detroit. Lillard was guarded well by Rodney Stuckey as he tried to drive to the basket, but he was able to hit a tough fadeaway from about 8 feet.  
 Detroit couldn't get off a shot before the buzzer. LaMarcus Aldridge scored 27 points for Portland, which rallied from a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter. Lillard finished with 23 points.  
 Josh Smith scored 31 points, his most since signing with the Pistons as a free agent in the offseason.  
**TIMBERWOLVES 101, GRIZZLIES 93**  
**MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)** — Kevin Love had 30 points and nine rebounds, Minnesota hit a season-high 12 3-pointers in beating Memphis.  
 The victory snapped Minnesota's 11-game losing streak to the Grizzlies and also gave the Timberwolves their third win in the last four.  
 Love was 11 of 21 from the field, including 4 of 8 from outside the arc as Minnesota converted 12 of 26 from long range. Minnesota had made 11

3-pointers six times this season, including in Friday night's loss at San Antonio. Nikola Pekovic scored 19 points, while reserve J.J. Barea had 15. Ricky Rubio finished with 12 points.  
 Mike Conley led the Grizzlies with 28 points before leaving with just under 4 minutes left with a bruised left thigh. Zach Randolph had 20 points and 12 rebounds.  
**SUNS 106, WARRIORS 102**  
**PHOENIX (AP)** — Eric Bledsoe scored seven of his 24 points in the fourth quarter as Phoenix won its fifth straight game, holding off Stephen Curry and Golden State.  
 Bledsoe added eight rebounds and eight assists, Goran Dragic scored 21 points, and Channing Frye

added 20 for the Suns. Curry scored 30 points, including 20 in the second half, and Klay Thompson added 19 for the Warriors, who have lost three of four. David Lee added 18 points and 13 rebounds for his fifth straight double-double. Golden State trailed by as many as nine in the third quarter, but pulled to within 76-75 on Curry's 3-pointer that capped a 10-2 Golden State run.  
**THUNDER 101, MAGIC 98**  
**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Kevin Durant had 28 points, nine rebounds and five assists, as Oklahoma City held off Orlando to win its 12th straight home game to open the season.  
 Russell Westbrook added 20 points, 12 rebounds and six assists for Oklahoma City,

which has won six straight overall and 14 of its last 15. The Thunder have beaten the Magic in five straight meetings.  
 An 11-1 run near the end of the first half gave Oklahoma City control until Orlando rallied within two points in the final minute. Durant hit a free throw and Serge Ibaka blocked a shot by Nikola Vucevic to preserve the win.  
 Arron Afflalo scored 25 points and Vucevic had 13 points and 16 rebounds for Orlando, which has lost 11 of its 13 road games this season.  
**NUGGETS 102, PELICANS 93**  
**DENVER (AP)** — J.J. Hickson had 19 points and 11 rebounds as Denver overcame a slow start to beat New Orleans. □

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## NHL

Continued from page 18

The Kings (22-8-4) had won six in a row and were hoping to complete a perfect four-game trip in the same building where their Stanley Cup title defense ended in June. But the matchup of the NHL's best offensive team and the league's stingiest defense went to the high-scoring Blackhawks, who have won four of five and lead the NHL with 53 points.

DUCKS 3, OILERS 2

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Dustin Penner scored the tiebreaking goal with 3:17 to play and Ryan Getzlaf extended his points streak to 14 games as Anaheim beat Edmonton for its fifth straight victory.

Corey Perry's seven-game goal streak ended, but his linemates connected for the deciding score in the Pacific Division-leading Ducks' 15th win in their last 17 meetings with last-place



Washington Capitals right wing Alex Ovechkin (8), from Russia, center, celebrates with his teammates including right wing Joel Ward (42) and defenseman Dmitry Orlov (81), from Russia, after an NHL hockey game against the Philadelphia Flyers, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, in Washington. The Capitals won 5-4 in a shootout. Associated Press

Edmonton.

Teemu Selanne ended his 19-game goal drought in the second period, and Jonas Hiller made 23 saves to help the Ducks improve to 13-0-2 at Honda Center.

Sam Gagner scored the tying goal with 9:34 to play for the Oilers, who have lost three straight. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins also scored,

and Ilya Bryzgalov stopped 31 shots.

Backlund, Curtis Glencross and Sean Monahan scored in regulation for Calgary.

PANTHERS 2, CANADIENS 1 MONTREAL (AP) — Jesse Winchester and Nick Bjugstad scored in a 2:27 span in the second period, and Scott Clemmensen made 17 saves in Florida's victory

over Montreal.

Alex Galchenyuk scored for Montreal, and Peter Budaj made 23 saves.

Florida extended its winning streak to three games, and Montreal lost for the third time in four games.

Winchester opened the scoring at 4:44 of the second, beating Budaj with a one-timer off the post. Bjugstad scored at 7:11, finishing off a 3-on-2 rush by firing a wrist shot under Budaj's glove.

Galchenyuk scored on a power play at 2:28 of the third.

LIGHTNING 3, RED WINGS 0 DETROIT (AP) — Ben Bishop made 28 saves for his sixth career shutout, and Tyler Johnson, J.T. Brown and

Alex Killorn scored in the third period in Tampa Bay's victory over Detroit.

Petr Mrazek stopped 24 shots for Detroit, which lost its fifth in a row.

Johnson opened the scoring 3:13 into the third, tipping in a loose puck from the front of the net for his eighth goal. Brown scored at 9:16, beating Mrazek on a tip off Nate Thompson's pass from the corner. Killorn added an empty-net goal.

In other NHL games it was Washington 5, Philadelphia 4, SO; N.Y. Rangers 4, Calgary 3, SO; Tampa Bay 3, Detroit 0; Florida 2, Montreal 1; Chicago 3, Los Angeles 1; and Anaheim 3, Edmonton 2. □



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## NFL Roundup

# Steelers jump on Bengals early in 30-20 win

By WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** - For all their precocious talent, the Cincinnati Bengals are still trying to figure out this "winning-in-December-and-beyond" thing.

The Pittsburgh Steelers provided another important lesson along the way for the burgeoning AFC North power: Be ready or be humbled.

Antonio Brown caught a touchdown pass and returned a punt for a score in a 64-second span in the first quarter and the Steelers overpowered the Bengals 30-20 on Sunday night. Shaun Suisham added three field goals for the Steelers (6-8), who built a 24-point lead and hardly looked like a team playing out the string.

"It's always great when you dictate the game and play ahead and not play catch up," Brown said.

The victory kept Pittsburgh's ever-so faint post-season hopes alive even if simply avoiding the franchise's first losing season in a decade is a considerably more attainable goal.

"We're just trying to show people the guys on this team, the coaches, they still want to play and they have a lot of fight left in them," Steelers safety Ryan Clark said.

Ben Roethlisberger completed 20 of 25 passes for 191 yards with a touchdown and an interception. Le'Veon Bell added 117 yards of total offense to help the Steelers snap a two-game losing streak.

Andy Dalton completed 25 of 44 for 230 yards and two

second-half touchdowns, but Cincinnati (9-5) never recovered after getting staggered early at frigid Heinz Field.

"We didn't make anything happen," Cincinnati coach Marvin Lewis said. "We didn't make any plays, create any opportunities."

Looking to move closer to a third straight playoff berth and perhaps grab the inside track on the No. 2 seed in the AFC, the Bengals were undone by a series of miscues on special teams and an offense that didn't get going until it was much too late.

"It's tough, for sure, because we had everything in front of us," Cincinnati wide receiver A.J. Green said. "We could have had ourselves set up in a great position if we could have come out here and won today. But, at least we have these last two games at home, and with the way we play at home I feel confident that we're going to win them back in Cincinnati."

Bell scored two plays after Cincinnati punter Kevin Huber dropped a snap while standing near the goal line after the Bengals' first possession. Pittsburgh's Will Allen dropped Huber at the 1 and Bell bulled into the end zone on second down for his sixth touchdown of the season.

Cincinnati had more issues on the ensuing kickoff.

Officials ruled Cedric Peerman called for a fair catch at the Cincinnati 9, wiping out a lengthy return. The Bengals eventually punted, setting up the Steelers



**Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown (84) goes in for a touchdown as wide receiver Markus Wheaton (11) celebrates in the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, in Pittsburgh.**

Associated Press

with a short field. Pittsburgh went 47 yards in eight plays, with Roethlisberger buying enough time for Brown to get open for a 12-yard touchdown strike to make it 14-0.

Brown's early work wasn't done. Cincinnati punted yet again and Brown took it 67 yards right up the middle, breaking a tackle at midfield on his way to the second punt return for a score in his four-year career for Pittsburgh's third touchdown of the quarter.

Huber took a hard hit from

Pittsburgh's Terence Garvin during the return. The punter was down on the field for several minutes before walking straight to the Cincinnati locker room with a fractured jaw. Cincinnati kicker Mike Nugent took over Huber's punting duties.

Pittsburgh extended its lead to 24-0 before the Bengals steadied themselves with a 47-yard touchdown drive capped by Giovani Bernard's 1-yard run. The Steelers responded late in the half with Suisham's 45-yard

field goal by to give them their biggest halftime lead of the season.

"You get offense and defense rolling, we think we're a real good team," Pittsburgh safety Ike Taylor said. "We've just got to get consistent."

Suisham's third field goal pushed Pittsburgh's advantage to 30-7 before the Bengals responded with Dalton's 1-yard touchdown pass to Tyler Eifert.

Dalton found Marvin Jones for a 13-yard score on fourth-and-5 with 5:51 to play, but Dalton's 2-point conversion attempt was batted down, keeping the deficit at 10 points.

Cincinnati got the ball back one more time, and Dalton's long heave to A.J. Green on fourth down fell incomplete.

"It was a snowball effect," Cincinnati center Kyle Cook said. "It's tough when you're all bundled up like that to start the game, and then the next thing you know you're down 21-0. So, that makes it tough to get going and come back from that deficit."

In Sunday's other NFL games it was Minnesota 48, Philadelphia 30; Atlanta 27, Washington 26; San Francisco 33, Tampa Bay 14; Seattle 23, N.Y. Giants 0; Chicago 38, Cleveland 31; Indianapolis 25, Houston 3; Buffalo 27, Jacksonville 20; Miami 24, New England 20; Kansas City 56, Oakland 31; Carolina 30, N.Y. Jets 20; Arizona 37, Tennessee 34, OT; St. Louis 27, New Orleans 16; Green Bay 37, Dallas 36; and Pittsburgh 30, Cincinnati 20. □



# 14 added to Masters field through world ranking

**DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

Augusta National added 14 players to the field for the Masters when the final world ranking of the year was published Monday.

That brings the field to 90 players who are expected to compete April 10-13, and again raises the possibility of the Masters exceeding 100 players for the first time in nearly 50 years. Augusta National has the smallest field of the four majors and prefers to keep it under 100 to enhance the overall experience at its tournament.

This is the third time in the last four years that the field was at least 90 players going into a new calendar year. There were 99 players for the 2011 Masters, the most since 103 players competed in 1966.

Those who qualified by being in the top 50 of the final ranking were Hideki Matsuyama, Thomas Bjorn, Jamie Donaldson, Victor Dubuisson, Gonzalo Fer-



**Matt Kuchar, left, and Harris English, right, hold the Franklin Templeton Shootout trophy after finishing first on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, in Naples, Fla.**

**Associated Press**

nandez-Castano, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Francesco Molinari, Rickie Fowler, Matteo Manassero, David Lynn, Thongchai Jaidee, Peter Hanson, Joost Luiten and Branden Grace.

Players can still qualify by winning a PGA Tour event (except for the Puerto Rico Open) or being in the top 50 on March 30, a full week

before the Masters.

Matsuyama qualified at No. 23. It will be his third appearance at the Masters, and his first as a pro. Matsuyama was a two-time winner of the Asia-Pacific Amateur, which awards an exemption to the Masters. He made the cut both times as an amateur.

"I'm ecstatic I qualified for

the Masters through my play for this year," Matsuyama said through an interpreter in October, when it was clear he would be in the top 50.

He won four times this year on the Japan Golf Tour and had a pair of top 10s in the majors.

Fowler was the only American of the 14 from the world ranking, though two other players (Peter Hanson, David Lynn) were PGA Tour members, who have more options available to them during the year.

The Masters changed the criteria for the 2014 tournament, though that appears to have little bearing on the number of qualified players. Because the PGA Tour went to a wraparound season (October through September), the Masters awarded spots to the winners of tournaments held in the fall. Jimmy Walker, Ryan Moore and Chris Kirk qualified by winning those events. The other winners of fall events — Webb

Simpson, Dustin Johnson and Harris English — previously were eligible for the Masters.

Augusta National eliminated the category for top 30 on the money list, though that didn't keep out any player who qualified.

The club now takes the top 12 and ties from the previous Masters (instead of the top 16) and the top four and ties from the U.S. Open (instead of the top eight). That eliminated only one player — David Toms — who would have been eligible under the previous category. The others would have made it through other criteria.

When the FedEx Cup was created in 2007, Augusta National returned to its practice of inviting PGA Tour winners (at events that offered full FedEx Cup points). Since then, the largest increase in the field from January until the Masters was the addition of 11 players for this year's tournament. □



**Ukrainian lawmaker and chairman of the Ukrainian opposition party Udar (Punch), WBC heavyweight boxing champion Vitali Klitschko gestures as he speaks to pro-European Union activists during a rally in Independence Square in Kiev, Ukraine, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013.**

**Associated Press**

**NESHA STARCEVIC**

**AP Sports Writer**

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)** — Vitali Klitschko is leaving boxing to concentrate on Ukrainian politics and his role as an opposition leader.

Klitschko vacated his WBC world heavyweight title on Monday and said he doesn't expect to fight

again as he pursues a presidential bid in his home country.

The World Boxing Council proclaimed Klitschko a "Champion Emeritus," a move that would allow him to challenge the new champion directly should he wish to resume his career.

"This offer makes it theo-

## Vitali Klitschko leaves boxing to pursue politics

retically possible to return to the ring, which I cannot imagine at all happening as things stand now," Klitschko said in a statement. "I am now concentrating on the politics in Ukraine, I feel people need me there."

Klitschko is a lawmaker and chairman of the opposition party Udar (Punch) and intends to run for president in 2015. Massive crowds have demonstrated for weeks in Kiev to protest President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to shun closer ties with the European Union and push his country toward Russia.

Klitschko has taken an active part in the rallies, urging his countrymen to continue their fight to turn the ex-Soviet republic into a genuine Western democracy.

"This is not a revolution. It is a peaceful protest that

demands justice," Klitschko told The Associated Press in an interview earlier this month. "The people are not defending political interests. They are defending the idea of living in a civilized country."

The 42-year-old Klitschko has a 45-2 record, with 41 KOs. His younger brother Wladimir holds the other significant heavyweight belts.

"My brother Wladimir will be responsible for further sporting successes," the older Klitschko said Monday.

Vitali has fought since September 2012, when he made the 10th defense of his belt with a fourth-round stoppage of previously unbeaten Manuel Charr.

"With the current extreme and delicate political situation in the Ukraine, Vitali has answered his country's call

to fight for human rights and equality. Accordingly, Vitali will not be able to provide the WBC with a predictable time-frame to return to the ring," the WBC said. "In other words, under his new distinction (Champion Emeritus), Klitschko will, in essence, retire with the option of being able to return to the ring at any time and be eligible to fight for the title against the reigning belt holder."

The WBC said it will soon determine the top two fighters to participate in an eliminator bout that will yield the successor to Klitschko's vacant title.

The WBC's next highest-ranked heavyweights, are, in order from 1-to-3, mandatory challenger Bernane Stiverne, Chris Arreola and Deontay "The Bronze Bomber" Wilder. □



# Maybe not sci-fi, but robots readied for big tests

GEOFF MULVIHILL

KEVIN BEGOS

Associated Press

PENNSAUKEN, New Jersey

(AP) — The real world has not caught up yet with "Star Wars" and its talking, thinking robots, but some of the most sophisticated units that exist are heading to Florida this week for a Defense Department-sponsored competition.

Seventeen humanoid robots will be evaluated Friday and Saturday at Homestead Miami Speedway for how well they can complete tasks including getting into an all-terrain vehicle and driving it and opening doors.

It's all stuff people can do. But the mission for the teams in the competition is to make robots that could function in disaster zones where the conditions could be threatening to humans. It's advanced but not science-fiction.

The robots, which move far slower than humans, are controlled by people telling them what action to take.

The top bots will move into the finals next year. The winning team gets \$2 million as part of a project of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The entry by defense contractor Lockheed Martin's Advanced Technology

Laboratories, made with help from students at the University of Pennsylvania and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, has been tested in an industrial park in Pennsauken, New Jersey.

The labs did well enough in the virtual version of the competition this year to be supplied a prebuilt robot and allowed to continue to this month's round of the DARPA challenge.

With the machine already built, Lockheed's team was responsible for the software. "We want the system to be intuitive to untrained operators," said Bill Borgia, the director of Lockheed's intelligent robotics laboratory.

During a practice session last week, an engineer used a joystick and a computer mouse to tell the 6-foot (1.8-meter) tall, 300-pound (135-kilogram) robot where — and how — to move as it picked up pieces of rubble. In a real-life rubble removing situation, the controller might not be close to the robot. That is why the operators did their work from behind a black curtain. They had monitors to show the view from a camera on the robot, but they could not see the whole action from the outside.

The robot designed at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon

University is called CHIMP — for CMU Highly Intelligent Mobile Platform. It is just over 5 feet (1.5 meters) tall and is one of 10 robots that were designed and built from scratch over the last 14 months for the DARPA challenge.

Other teams are using their software on robots supplied by DARPA.

Anthony Stentz is the director of the National Robotics Engineering Center at Carnegie Mellon and the lead researcher on CHIMP.

"We wanted to design a robot that had roughly human form, so that it fits in the environment that humans operate in. But we didn't want to take on the difficult task of building a machine that is too humanlike," Stentz said. For example, walking on two legs presents a major engineering challenge, so CHIMP rolls on treads, like a small tank. It has treads on its arms, too, and gets down on all fours to go over rough terrain.

Like other robots in the competition, CHIMP gets some commands from humans but also has the ability to make limited decisions. "So we are telling it what to do, and it's deciding how to do it," Stentz said.

Stentz said many people don't really understand how difficult it is to get a



In this Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013 photo, engineer Nick Letwin watches as the CMU Highly Intelligent Mobile Platform robot, known as CHIMP, is put through some paces as it pulls a fire hose from during a preparation run at the National Robotics Engineering Center in Pittsburgh.

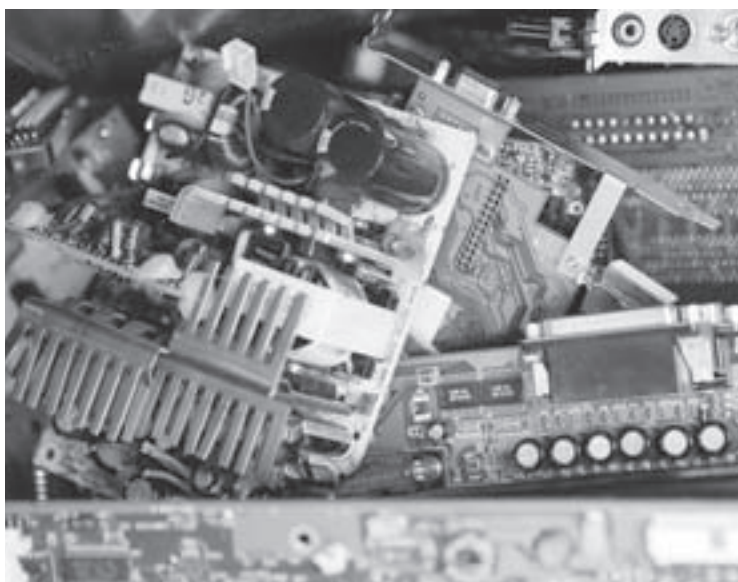
Associated Press

machine to do even simple tasks. Robots excel in doing particular things such as welding a car part on an assembly line. But search and rescue missions take place in vastly different and constantly changing environments.

During practice runs at CMU, it took CHIMP several minutes to open a door or attach a fire hose to a wa-

ter faucet. While less exciting than fictional robots' capabilities, those tasks are more complicated and varied than robots usually do, such as vacuuming a room.

"We think that the public ends up with a sense that robots are far more capable than they are," Stentz said of how Hollywood portrays the machines. □



In this Feb. 4, 2013 file photo computer parts are piled in a consolidated container for electronic scrap at the Bahrenfeld recycling park in Hamburg, Germany.

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The mountain of refrigerators, cellphones, TV sets and other electrical waste disposed of annu-

ally worldwide is forecast to grow by a third by 2017, according to a U.N. study released Sunday.

## U.N. study: Electrical waste up by third by 2017

E-waste — defined as anything with a battery or a cord — can pose a big problem because it often contains substances that are harmful to humans and the environment if not properly treated. On the other hand, some of it can be profitably recycled.

A U.N. think tank dedicated to the issue estimates that the amount of e-waste will rise from almost 48.9 million metric tons (53.9 million tons) in 2012 to 65.4 million metric tons (72.09 million tons) in 2017. That's nearly 200 times the weight of the Empire State Building.

The U.S. dumped the most last year, generating 9.4 million metric tons of e-waste, followed by China with 7.3 million metric tons. Per capita the U.S. was even further ahead, with almost 30 kilograms (66 pounds) of high-tech trash for China's 5.4 kilograms (12 pounds). The global average is 7 kilograms (15 pounds) per person. But China is catching up, evidenced by the fact that it had the highest volume of electrical goods put on the market last year with 11.1 million metric tons. The U.S. had about 10 million

metric tons.

Taken together, developing and emerging countries already produce as much e-waste as the developed world, said Ruediger Kuehr, who heads the StEP secretariat, based at the United Nations University in Bonn, Germany. "There is a hunger of humankind for technology that makes our lives easier," Kuehr told The Associated Press. "It's not only the communication technologies but also medical devices, washing machines and e-toys that are very popular around Christmas time." □



# Stocks soar on signs of stronger economy

**JOSHUA FREED**  
AP Business Writer

Stocks soared Monday after two down weeks, as investors warmed up to the idea that the economy is getting better.

officer for Commonwealth Financial. The Fed meets for two days beginning Tuesday, and officials could signal when the Fed will dial back the stimulus that has helped

gies is buying LSI Corp. for \$6.6 billion. Avago rose \$4.45, or 10 percent, to \$50.10, while LSI rose \$3.05, or 39 percent, to \$10.96. AIG is selling its aircraft leasing business for about

tion surged. The gains in manufacturing could help boost economic growth.

Just last week, such positive reports made investors nervous. They feared the Fed would think the economy was doing so well that its \$85 billion in monthly bond-buying was no longer needed.

The Fed will release a statement and projections for the economy Wednesday. Economists are almost unanimous in believing the Fed will not begin winding down its stimulus program yet.

This year's stock rally has been fueled by that stimulus, higher corporate earnings, and a slow but steady recovery in the U.S. economy. All of the big indexes are up more than 20 percent.

Karyn Cavanaugh, market strategist with ING U.S. Investment Management, said she doesn't expect such large returns next year — maybe more like 10 percent.

"But that's actually good for investor confidence," she said. "When they see these big huge numbers, I think they look at it with kind of a jaded eye and think, 'Is that really sustainable? Maybe it's already run its course so I want to get out.'"

Energy stocks rose, led by Tesoro, which runs refineries and gas stations. It was up \$2.07, or 4 percent, at \$58.37. Exxon Mobil rose \$1.91, or 2 percent, to \$97.22 after being upgraded by Goldman Sachs. □

## Four year high in pace of U.S. worker output

**JOSH BOAK**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. workers boosted their productivity from July through September at the fastest pace since the end of 2009, adding to signs of stronger economic growth. The Labor Department said Monday that productivity increased at a 3 percent annual rate in the third quarter. That's up from an initial estimate of 1.9 percent and much stronger than the 1.8 percent rate from April through June.

Productivity rose because economic growth was much stronger than previously estimated in the third quarter. Productivity is the amount of output per hour of work.

Labor costs fell in the third quarter, evidence that inflation will remain low.

Higher productivity enables companies to pay employees more without sparking inflation. But greater productivity can also slow hiring if it shows companies don't need more workers to boost output.

However, productivity growth has been mostly flat over the past year. That's because the gains from the past six months have been offset by declines in previous six months.

Worker productivity is improving along with economic growth. Hiring has accelerated since the summer and wages are gradually rising. The economy grew a 3.6 percent annual rate in the third quarter, much faster than the 2.8 percent rate previously estimated.

But productivity gains have slowed in the past three years after jumping in the aftermath of the recession. Worker productivity grew just 1.5 percent in 2012 and 0.5 percent in 2011. Those gains followed much healthier increases of 3.3 percent in 2010 and 3.2 percent in 2009. But productivity improved because companies ramped up output after having laid off many workers during the Great Recession. □



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, Dec. 16, 2013. U.S. stocks rose sharply on Monday, powered by two big corporate deals and news that suggests the economy is getting stronger.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Stocks have fallen lately after good economic news, because investors worried that the Federal Reserve would think its stimulus was no longer needed. But Monday's gains, driven by two corporate deals and more positive economic news, suggested that investors are focused more on good news and less on what it means the central bank will do.

For a while, investors felt, "Oh my goodness, we won't be able to survive without Fed support." But people are actually seeing that things really are getting better," said Brad McMillan, chief investment

boost the stock market this year.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 129 points, or 0.8 percent, to close at 15,884.57, after rising almost 175 points in the morning. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 11 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,786.54. The Nasdaq composite was higher by 28 points, or 0.7 percent, at 4,029.52.

Monday brought the first gain in five days for the S&P 500 index. The Dow has risen two trading days in a row and reduced some of the losses from last week.

Two major deals caught investors' attention: Chip-maker Avago Technolo-

\$5.4 billion to Dutch leasing company AerCap. AIG has been selling major assets after getting a bailout during the financial crisis. Its shares rose 55 cents, or 1 percent, to \$50.28.

The Avago-LSI deal helped make tech stocks the biggest gainers among the 10 industries in the S&P 500. Others winners included computer hard drive makers Western Digital and Seagate, which benefited from analyst upgrades.

Of those 10 industries, only consumer staples fell.

Also Monday, the Federal Reserve said factory production accelerated in November as auto produc-

## Avago Technologies buying LSI for \$6.6B

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The chip-maker Avago Technologies Ltd. is buying LSI Corp. for \$6.6 billion to help strengthen its position in the enterprise storage market and broaden its offerings.

Shares of both companies surged in Monday premarket trading.

LSI shareholders will receive \$11.15 per share, a 40 percent premium to the San Jose, California, company's Friday closing price of

\$7.94. "This combination will increase the company's scale and diversify our revenue and customer base," Avago President and CEO Hock Tan said in a statement.

The transaction is expected to significantly and immediately add to Avago's adjusted earnings per share. The Singapore-based company said that it plans to fund the acquisition with \$1 billion of cash as well as a

\$4.6 billion term loan from a group of banks and a \$1 billion investment from the private equity firm Silver Lake Partners.

Silver Lake Partners teamed with Michael Dell for the \$24.9 billion acquisition of Dell Inc. Avago said that Silver Lake's investment for the LSI transaction is expected to be a seven-year, 2 percent convertible note. Avago expects \$200 million in annual operating savings

by fiscal 2015's end.

Both company's boards approved the deal, which still needs approval from LSI shareholders.

The transaction is targeted to close during the first half of 2014.

Shares of LSI jumped \$3.07, or 38.8 percent, to \$10.98 in premarket trading about 45 minutes ahead of the market opening while Avago's stock rose \$6.32, or 13.8 percent, to \$51.97. □



## AP-GfK poll:

## Americans see end of stock surge

STEVE ROTHWELL  
AP Markets Writer**NEW YORK (AP)** — Americans aren't expecting another bang-up year for the stock market, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll.

Of the people polled, 40 percent think the market will stabilize where it is now by the end of 2014, with 39 percent predicting that it will drop, but not crash. Only 14 percent believe the market will rise and 5 percent think it will crash.

The Standard &amp; Poor's 500 index has surged 24.5 percent to 1,775 in 2013, putting it on track for its best year in a decade.

The rally has been fueled by higher corporate earnings, a slow but steady recovery in the U.S. economy and stimulus from the Federal Reserve.

Perhaps because of the slow recovery, only about half of the general public noted the market's strong performance, according to the poll. Investors were more aware of the booming market, however, as 73 percent say it improved.

William Leyser, 74, a retired machinist from Las Vegas, thinks the stock market may fall by as much as 10 percent next year. He has taken some of his money out of stocks this year and put it into bonds.

"I'm concerned there is going to be a big correction here," says Leyser, who invests in mutual funds. "When it gets high, it always goes down a little bit."

The poll also shows that individuals are less optimistic about the outlook for the stock market than many investment professionals.

While few market strategists expect stocks to keep climbing at the same pace, many see them extending their gains at a slower rate. Bank of America Merrill Lynch predicts the S&amp;P 500 index will end next year at 2,000, about 13 percent higher than its current level. Wells Fargo Advisors forecasts the index will climb as high as 1,900, a gain of about 7 percent.

Stocks have rallied since bottoming out after the financial crisis and the start of the Great Recession, lifting the S&amp;P 500 index 162 percent from its low in March 2009. Despite those steady returns, the poll suggests that Americans are still nervous about buying and holding stocks.

Of those polled, 71 percent consider investing in the stock market to be "generally risky," compared with 27 percent who think of the market as "generally safe."

The perception of stocks as a risky investment has lessened since the spring, when 75 percent of respondents said it was "generally risky" and 18 percent said it was "generally safe."

Still, with interest rates on savings accounts low, some individual investors recognize the need to take on more risk. "If you want to see some growth in your portfolio you have to go into equities," says Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, 64, a former IT worker who lives in Portsmouth, Virginia. Overall, 20 percent of investors say they plan to invest more heavily in the market in the coming year, 22 percent will pull back, and 57 percent plan to invest at about the same level as in 2013.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted Dec. 5-9, 2013, using KnowledgePanel, GfK's probability-based online panel. For results based on all 1,367 adults, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

KnowledgePanel is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Respondents were first selected randomly using phone or mail survey methods, and later, completed this survey online. People selected for KnowledgePanel who didn't otherwise have Internet access were provided with access at no cost to them. The poll should not be considered a predictor of future performance for the stock market. □

## China:

## Possible deal could boost iPhone sales

JOE McDONALD  
AP Business Writer**BEIJING (AP)** — Apple Inc. might have a chance to pep up cooling iPhone sales in China if it finally can reach a deal with the world's biggest phone carrier.

Once China's must-have gadget, the iPhone has seen its explosive popularity squeezed as the market filled with lower-priced rivals from Samsung to ambitious local brands. Some analysts say anybody who wants an iPhone and can afford it already has one. That might change if Ap-

received approval Dec. 5 to start operating the world's fourth-generation network and needs to market it.

State-owned China Mobile has more than 750 million mobile accounts. But its new 4G system — based on China's homegrown TD-LTE standard — is unfamiliar to demanding Chinese customers.

The iPhone's glamor might help to win them over.

"Leveraging this brand, China Mobile could build a reputation for their network," said analyst Jane Zhang of Gartner.

units. That would be on top of the 50 million iPhones analysts estimate have been sold in China in the past 2½ years.

Apple already has agreements with China's two smaller state-owned carriers, China Telecom Ltd. and China Unicom Ltd. They have 180 million and 275 million mobile accounts, respectively. Almost anywhere else, that would make them the biggest national carrier. But together they are barely half of China Mobile's total. Customers responding to a survey by Bernstein



**A man walks in front of a China Telecom advertisement for the iPhone with the Chinese characters "Hot Sales" in Beijing Monday, Dec. 16, 2013. Apple Inc. might have a chance to pep up cooling iPhone sales in China if it finally can reach a deal with the world's biggest phone carrier.**

(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

ple can gain access to China Mobile Ltd.'s network and a new pool of potential customers. After a yearslong courtship, there are signs the two corporate giants might finally be edging toward a deal. The Wall Street Journal said it could be announced as early as this week, though China Mobile spokespeople have said the companies were still talking.

On Monday, China Mobile's website was taking orders for a mystery phone called "Ming Xing," or Bright Star. It showed a handset silhouette like that of an iPhone but gave no brand name.

The timing looks right. Just as Apple's sales growth in China cools, China Mobile

For its part, Apple would gain access to a bigger, more robust network. It has faster data speeds and suffers fewer complaints about dropped calls than those of two smaller state-owned rivals. "They need China Mobile more than China Mobile needs them," Zhang said.

How the benefits shake out for each side will depend on what deal the two giant companies, each with powerful leverage, can strike on how to split the costs of iPhone handsets. And on how Apple copes with intense competition from Samsung and other brands. Forecasts of additional iPhone sales in China vary widely, from 10 million to as many as 40 million

Research cited China Mobile as their favored carrier. But they said that, due to its lack of iPhone support, they use the smaller companies for data service.

Customers who already own iPhones might switch to China Mobile for data as well as voice service, Bernstein said. That would mean a surge in business for China Mobile but little payoff for Apple.

"We could see an initial surge in iPhones following availability at China Mobile, but weaker sales going forward," Bernstein said in a report. Apple could use the boost. Two years ago, eager buyers in Beijing waited overnight in freezing weather for the iPhone 4S. □



Mutts



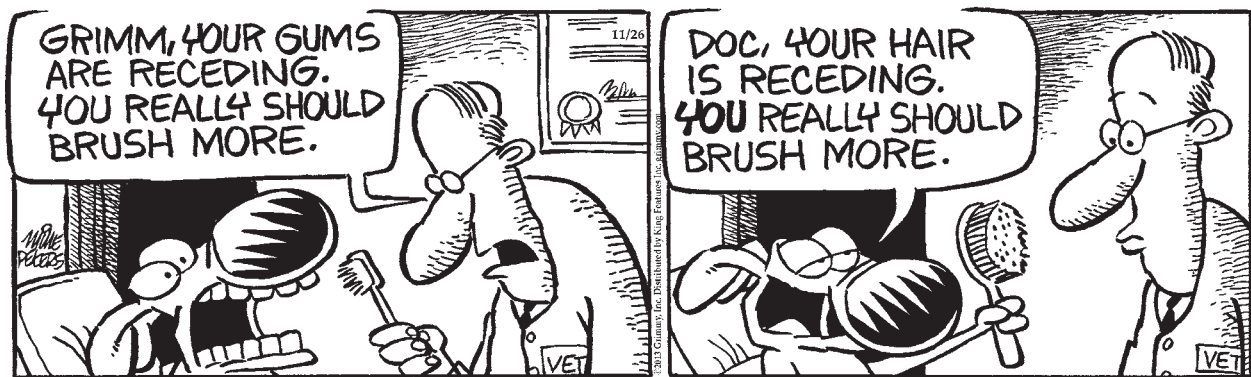
6 Chix



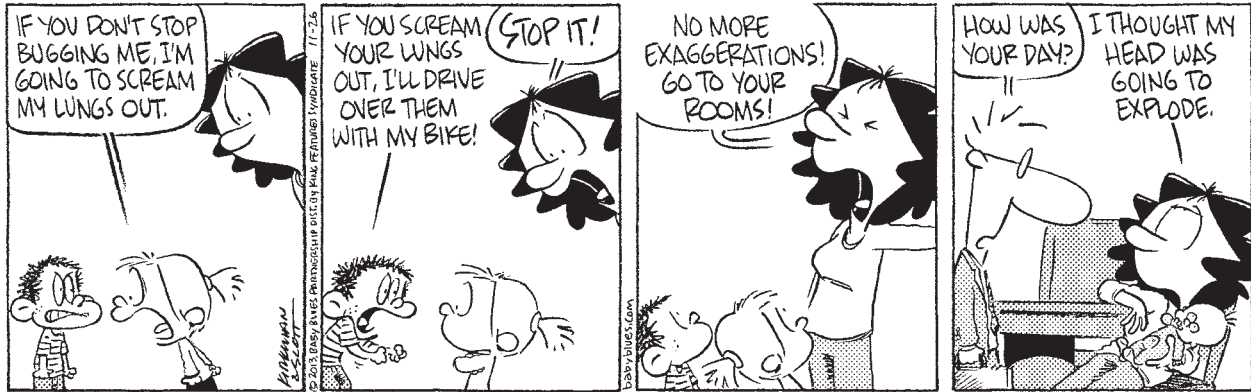
Blondie



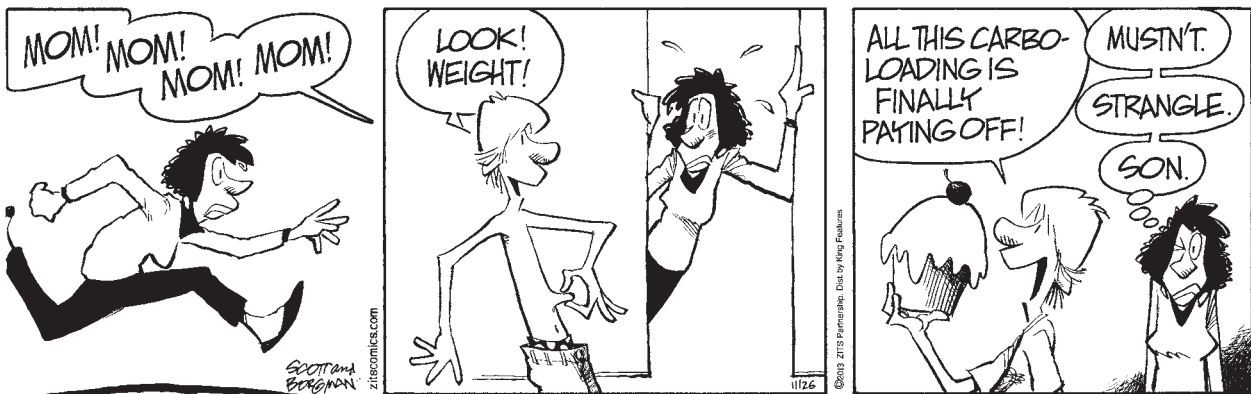
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		2			4	3		
	7						1	
9				8	1			2
1	4	2		6				
		3				4		
			1		9	8		3
8			7	6				4
	2						7	
		9	5			2		

Difficulty Level ★★

11/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

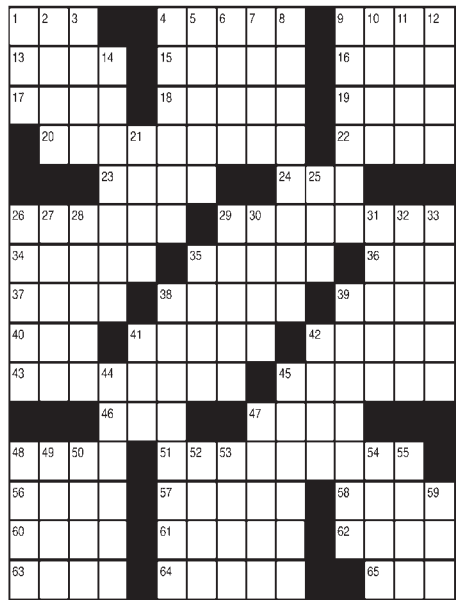
7	2	3	9	8	5	6	1	4
9	4	6	1	3	7	2	5	8
5	1	8	6	4	2	3	7	9
2	6	9	8	5	1	4	3	7
8	7	5	3	9	4	1	6	2
1	3	4	7	2	6	8	9	5
4	9	2	5	1	3	7	8	6
6	5	1	4	7	8	9	2	3
3	8	7	2	6	9	5	4	1

ACROSS

- 1 \_\_\_ the time; constantly  
4 Marsh  
9 Majority  
13 Dial or Ivory  
15 Fight verbally  
16 In a lazy way  
17 "Oh, for Pete's \_\_\_"  
18 Actress Sally  
19 Person, place or thing  
20 Down in the dumps  
22 Encourage  
23 One of the three tenses  
24 Whopper  
26 Take willingly  
29 Devices often hooked to PCs  
34 "A day late and a dollar \_\_\_"  
35 Elephant nose  
36 Encountered  
37 Show-offs  
38 Fork time  
39 Unexceptional  
40 Leprechaun  
41 Army vehicles  
42 Spud  
43 Commandeers a plane in flight  
45 Nine tens  
46 Australian bird that cannot fly  
47 Nourish  
48 Not quite closed  
51 Buildings full of books  
56 Apple's center  
57 Creek  
58 Putin's "No"  
60 Abound  
61 Run \_\_\_ of the law; commit crime  
62 Equipment  
63 Kill  
64 Rough & noisy  
65 Parched

DOWN

- 1 Burro  
2 Washerful of laundry



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/26/13

Monday's Puzzle Solved

3	Body of water	48	Performs
4	Least risky	38	Odd
5	Watch's place	39	Making smooth
6	Eras	41	Bread spread
7	"I've got a __, her name is Sal..."	42	Bleachers level
8	Selling on the street	44	Actor Irons
9	Graceful dance	45	In a tidy way
10	Smell	47	Father of psychoanalysis
11	Punch		
12	Actress Daly		
14	Salsa ingredients		
21	Engrossed		
25	Pen contents		
26	Sooty residue		
27	Blackboard writer's need		
28	Cozy		
29	___ up; supports		
30	Diamond scores		
31	Shed crocodile tears		
32	Bowling alley button		
33	Tale		

35	Long journey	48	Performs
38	Odd	49	Singer Billy
39	Making smooth	50	Length times width
41	Bread spread	52	News, for short
42	Bleachers level	53	Hard hit
44	Actor Irons	54	Watched
45	In a tidy way	55	Burn
47	Father of psychoanalysis	59	Give it a go

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11/26/13



## Booksellers wary about holiday sales

**JULIE BOSMAN**  
© 2013 New York Times

All across the country, booksellers have a Christmas wish: that the e-book thrill is gone.

There is reason to believe it will come true. E-book sales have flattened in 2013, giving publishers and bookstores hope that consumers' appetite for print books will be renewed during the most crucial sales period of the year.

But there are plenty of reasons for holiday anxiety, too, starting with a compressed shopping season, the result of Thanksgiving falling later than it has in a decade. Booksellers also have to contend with the absence of a blockbuster title to drive sales and fill stores, the way the Steve Jobs biography did two years ago. And they must compete with steep discounts on print books from Amazon. It is a grab bag of factors, any one of which could tilt the fortunes of retailers as the holiday book-

buying season enters its final days.

This is the time when publishers release their splashiest books and count on Christmas shoppers being much more willing to part with \$25 for a weighty hardcover. The leveling off of e-book sales should help. The Association of American Publishers, which collects monthly data from about 1,200 publishers, said last month that e-book sales had been flat or in decline for most of 2013. In August, e-book sales were approximately \$128 million, a 3 percent decline from August 2012.

"I don't know if it's a saturation point with digital," Len Vlahos, the executive director of the Book Industry Study Group, said in a recent interview. "But all the data we see suggests that we've hit a state of equilibrium. The trend lines have flattened out. Three years ago, it was a nascent market, but now it looks like a maturing market." □

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PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

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# Feds grant Navy permit for sonar training



This undated image provided by the SOCAL-BRS project shows a researcher tagging a blue whale off the coast of Southern California. Two recent studies off Southern California found certain endangered blue whales and beaked whales stopped feeding and fled from recordings of noise similar to military sonar.

Associated Press

**JULIE WATSON**  
Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Environmental organizations filed a lawsuit Monday against the National Marine Fisheries Service to demand it force the U.S. Navy to consider alternatives to its five-year plan that will intensify its sonar use off Southern California and Hawaii. Navy officials estimate its activities would have a negligible impact on marine mammal populations. Environmentalists dispute that and favor creating zones that would be off-limits to biologically sensi-

tive areas. They also want the Navy to avoid training in certain spots seasonally when they are rich in marine life. Earthjustice, representing several groups, filed the lawsuit in federal court in Honolulu, only hours after the National Marine Fisheries Service announced it had decided to grant the Navy permits to move ahead with its plans for training and testing in the Pacific. "The science is clear: sonar and live-fire training in the ocean harms marine mammals," said Marsha

Green of Ocean Mammal Institute, which is among the groups suing. "There are safer ways to conduct Navy exercises that include time and place restrictions to avoid areas known to be vital for marine mammals' feeding, breeding and resting." The Navy estimates that its activities could inadvertently kill 186 whales and dolphins off the East Coast and 155 off Hawaii and Southern California, mostly from explosives. It calculates more than 11,000 serious injuries off the East Coast and 2,000 off Hawaii and Southern California, along with nearly 2 million minor injuries, such as temporary hearing loss, off each coast. It also predicts marine mammals might change their behavior — such as swimming in a different direction — in 27 million instances. NMFS granted the permits for the Atlantic and Gulf

of Mexico last month. The Pacific permit was the final one. Environmentalists won a small victory in September when a federal judge ruled the marine fisheries agency did not consider the latest science when it granted permits last year. In Monday's ruling, the agency said it will review the latest scientific data yearly with the Navy to determine if enough is being done to mitigate the risks. Reported mass strandings of beaked whales have increased around the world since the military started using sonar more than half a century ago. The sounds can scare animals into shallow waters where they can become disoriented and wash ashore. Aside from beachings, biologists are concerned about prolonged stress from changes in diving, feeding and communi-

cation habits. Only in the past decade have scientists had the technology to closely monitor the behavior of whales and dolphins. Two recent studies off the Southern California coast found certain endangered blue whales and beaked whales stopped feeding and fled from recordings of noise similar to military sonar. Beaked whales are highly sensitive to sound and account for the majority of strandings near military exercises. Navy officials say it's vital to national security that sailors receive realistic sonar training, and they use simulators where possible. Environmentalists want more protections and favored the creation of safety zones that would guarantee no high-intensity sonar activity near marine sanctuaries and areas where blue, fin and gray whales gather seasonally. □

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# Joan Fontaine, Oscar-winner for 'Suspicion,' dies

BOB THOMAS

HILLEL ITALIE

Associated Press

CARMEL, California (AP) —

Academy Award-winning actress Joan Fontaine, who found stardom playing naive wives in Alfred Hitchcock's "Suspicion" and "Rebecca" and also was featured in films by Billy Wilder, Fritz Lang and Nicholas Ray, died Sunday. She was 96.

Fontaine, the sister of fellow Oscar winner Olivia de Havilland, died in her sleep in her Carmel, California, home Sunday morning, said longtime friend Noel Beutel. Fontaine had been fading in recent days and died "peacefully," Beutel said.

In her later years, Fontaine had lived quietly at her Villa Fontana estate south of Carmel, enjoying its spectacular view of wind-swept Point Lobos.

Fontaine's pale, soft features and frightened stare made her ideal for melodrama and she was a major star for much of the 1940s. For Hitchcock, she was a prototype of the uneasy blondes played by Kim Novak in "Vertigo" and Tippi Hedren in "The Birds" and "Marnie."

The director would later say he was most impressed by Fontaine's restraint. She would credit George Cukor, who directed her in "The Women," for urging her to "think and feel and the rest will take care of itself."

Fontaine appeared in more than 30 movies, including early roles in "The Women" and "Gunga Din," the title part in "Jane Eyre" and in Max Ophuls' historical drama "Letter from an Unknown Woman." She was also in films directed by Wilder ("The Emperor Waltz"), Lang ("Beyond a Reasonable Doubt") and, wised up and dangerous, in Ray's "Born to be Bad." She starred on Broadway



This April 3, 1978 file photo shows actress Joan Fontaine at the 50th Annual Academy Awards in Los Angeles. The Oscar-winning actress has died at the age of 96. Longtime friend Noel Beutel says she died in her sleep in her Carmel home Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013. Associated Press

in 1954 in "Tea and Sympathy" and in 1980 received an Emmy nomination for her cameo on the daytime soap "Ryan's Hope."

"You know, I've had a helluva life," Fontaine once said. "Not just the acting part. I've flown in an international balloon race. I've piloted my own plane. I've ridden to the hounds. I've done a lot of exciting things."

Fontaine had minor roles in several films in the 1930s, but received little attention and was without a studio contract when she was seated next to producer David O. Selznick at a dinner party near the decade's end. She impressed him enough to be asked to audition for "Rebecca," his first movie since "Gone With the Wind" and the American directorial debut of Hitchcock.

Just as seemingly every actress had tried out for Scarlett O'Hara, hundreds applied for the lead female role in "Rebecca," based on Daphne du Maurier's gothic best-seller about haunted Maxim de Winter and the dead first wife — the title character — he obsesses over. □

# Beyonce sells 617,000 albums in 3 days on iTunes

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) —

Beyonce's surprise album has sold surprisingly well: Her fifth solo effort sold more than 600,000 units in its first three days, setting a record for first-week domestic digital sales.

Beyonce's self-titled album was released early Friday morning exclusively on iTunes unbeknownst to the public. Apple said Monday that the album sold 617,213 in its U.S. iTunes Store. It sold 828,773 internationally.

"You have to be innovative. The Internet has changed the game. You've got to look at how to address the fact that most artists' albums leak before their release plans," said Lee Ann Callahan-Longo, the general manager of Beyonce's production company Parkwood Entertainment, who released the album alongside Columbia Records.

"Look at where your opportunities can lie and that's kind of how we approached it," she continued in an interview Monday.

"We had a multitude of things we were trying to accomplish, some things we were trying to avoid, and this turned out to be the right perfect plan for us." Beyonce surprised fans with the release of the album, which features 14 songs and 17 videos, and



This Feb. 10, 2013 file photo shows Beyonce at the 55th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

social media website exploded with mentions of the singer and her new music. In three hours, it sold 80,000 units, and the build-up continued over the weekend.

"It really wasn't about making a hit record or chasing what sounds like today's music for singles," explained Callahan-Longo, who has worked with Beyonce for seven years. "Beyonce" features collaborations with Jay Z, Drake, Frank Ocean and Justin Timberlake, who co-wrote two songs. The album is being sold by iTunes exclusively for a week at \$15.99. It will be sold in re-

tailers and others websites this week.

"It wasn't easy and we were really careful," Callahan-Longo said of keeping the album a secret. "It started with a very small core group of people and only grew when necessary in order to make something happen. It got a little dicey there and concerning as we got closer and closer as the circle had to widen." "Beyonce" broke the first-week digital sales record for an album in the United States. It also marks the singer's best first-week numbers. It will debut at No. 1 on Billboard's Top 200 albums chart this week. □

# Yearwood, McBride cancel SeaWorld concerts

MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) —

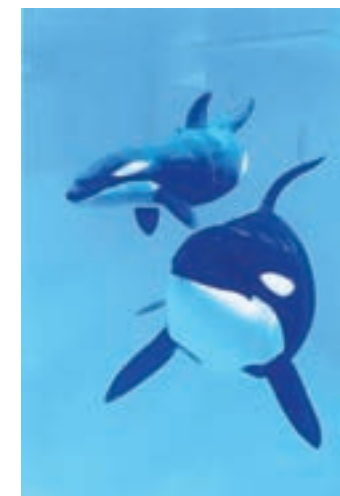
More entertainers have canceled their appearances at SeaWorld Orlando following the recent release of a documentary that raises questions about the effects of captivity on whales.

Representatives for Trisha Yearwood and Martina McBride confirmed Monday that the country singers have joined the ranks of

recording artists who have pulled out of performing at the park's February concert series, Bands, Brew and BBQ.

They joined Barenaked Ladies, Willie Nelson and Heart in canceling their appearances.

The documentary, "Blackfish," explores what may have caused a 12,000-pound orca named Tilikum to kill veteran SeaWorld trainer Dawn Brancheau in 2010. □



FILE - In this July 2, 1999 file photo, killer whale Kalina, right, and her 10-day-old son Baby Shamu swim at SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press



# The Associated Press' top 10 movies of the year

**JAKE COYLE**  
AP Film Writer

In surveying the year at the movies, the topography is rich. From the dusty, dying towns of "Nebraska" to the rooftop Roman parties in "The Great Beauty" to the sleek future Los Angeles of "Her," 2013 has been a trip. But has it been a great year? Negativity reached a fever pitch in the summer when Steven Spielberg lamented Hollywood's risk-averse, finance-driven blockbusterism. The grim, humorless "Man of Steel" and its careless backdrop of mass destruction was a low point: the epitome of everything bad about movies today. Yet ambitious films gathered in number as the year went on, and many began calling 2013 a historically excellent year for film, after all. Here are one critic's top picks of the year, all of them reasons why 2013 was a good year for the big screen:

1. "12 Years a Slave" — Steve McQueen's masterful adaptation of Solomon Northup's 1853 memoir is simply a powerhouse. McQueen, I suspect, will never make a comedy; his three movies ("Shame," "Hunger") reveal him a harsh storyteller, drawn down dark rabbit holes. But his lack of sentimentality gives "12 Years a Slave" its clarity: a long overdue correction to cinema's reluctant treatment of slavery. As Northup, Chiwetel Ejiofor's soulful eyes carry us through a nightmare odyssey of America's past.



This file image released by Fox Searchlight shows Chiwetel Ejiofor, center, in a scene from "12 Years A Slave."

2. "Mud" — From the plantations of mid-19th century Louisiana, we travel up river to contemporary Arkansas in Jeff Nichols' Twainesque tale of boyhood on the Mississippi. With the wise-beyond-his-years Tye Sheridan as the 14-year-old Ellis, "Mud" is a full-hearted American fable.

3. "Frances Ha" — Full disclosure: I'm in love with Greta Gerwig. That bias notwithstanding, Noah Baumbach's latest — co-written by and starring Gerwig — is a lovely ode to its title character (who has much in common with Gerwig, herself). Frances is an idiosyncratic 27-year-old finding her place in New York; where the "Ha" comes from is answered in the film's sweet final moment.

4. "Inside Llewyn Davis"

— Like Frances, Llewyn is a striving Manhattanite without an apartment or a steady job. But he's much angrier about it. The Coen brothers' melancholy story of a bitter, unfortunate folk singer is a wry commentary on the cruelty of fate, and melody born out of disharmony.

5. "The Hunt" — In the most haunting film of the year, the weak binds of a seemingly close-knit Danish community disintegrate when a kindergarten teacher (Mads Mikkelsen) is unjustly accused of sexually assaulting a child.

6. "The Great Beauty" — Fellini looms large in Paolo Sorrentino's portrait of Rome in decadent decay. Sorrentino is an exquisite stylist (the opening minutes of his "Il Divo" are pure, blis-

tering cinema), and "The Great Beauty" is manic and overstuffed. But it's bursting with life. (Literally. It's got a giraffe.)

7. "Gravity" — So simple you could make the case that Alfonso Cuarón's 3-D spectacle is a bit banal. But, man, is it something to look at. The movie won't be remembered for its thin story, but at a time when television's rise is much discussed, "Gravity" reinvigorated the big screen experience.

8. "Blue Is the Warmest Color" — Several films this year were fascinating snapshots of lives in motion. The powerful, simply told Bill Moyers' documentary "Two American Families" kept up with two struggling middle-class families for 20 years. And Richard Linklater has cov-

ered two decades in the lives of a Paris woman (Julie Delpy) and American writer (Ethan Hawke) in his day-in-a-life series, culminating in "Before Midnight." But Abdellatif Kechiche's Palme d'Or-winner (also called "The Life of Adele: Chapters 1&2") is the most memorable for its extreme closeness in portraying a teenager's awakening to herself and the world. Adele Exarchopoulos' performance is staggeringly open. The irony is that the infamous sex scenes in this flawed but arresting coming-of-age tale are easily the most artificial parts in it.

9. "This Is the End" — The jokes just come and come. Nobody had a better time making a movie this year than Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, and it's written all over their self-parodying apocalypse comedy.

10. "The Spectacular Now" and "Short Term 12" — Movies that honestly represent teenage life are seldom, but both of these films magically move from familiar plot lines to somewhere honest. The high-school comedy of "The Spectacular Now," starring Miles Teller, smacks up against hard realities. "Short Term 12," starring Brie Larson, tenderly depicts a foster-care facility and its young supervisors without resorting to clichés. Also: "Her," "Nebraska," "Rush," "A Band Called Death," "Elysium," "Fruitvale Station," "Captain Phillips," "Upstream Color," "Enough Said," "Blue Jasmine". □



Director James Cameron attends a press conference on Monday, Dec. 16, 2013, in Wellington, New Zealand, to announce that he will shoot three sequels to his 2009 sci-fi blockbuster movie "Avatar" in New Zealand.

Associated Press

## Cameron to shoot 3 'Avatar' sequels in New Zealand

**NICK PERRY**  
Associated Press

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)** — James Cameron will be returning to New Zealand to film three sequels to "Avatar," his enormously popular movie about the blue inhabitants of Pandora.

The director made the announcement Monday in the capital Wellington with producer Jon Landau and Prime Minister John Key. The films will be made by Light-

storm Entertainment and Twentieth Century Fox.

"Avatar," released in 2009 and shot in New Zealand, won three Academy Awards and is the highest-grossing film in history, with an international box office take of nearly \$2.8 billion.

Cameron said he plans to complete principal shooting on the three movies at one time, perhaps over a period of about nine months and beginning in 2015. He said

the aim is to release the first sequel in time for Christmas 2016 and the following sequels in late 2017 and late 2018.

"It's quite a thrill to be officially saying that we're bringing the Avatar films to New Zealand," he told a news conference. "We had such a wonderful experience here making the first film." Cameron said work has begun on the writing and design of the movies. □



## The Biggest Losers



**PAUL KRUGMAN**  
© 2013 New York Times

The pundit consensus seems to be that Republicans lost in the just-concluded budget deal. Overall spending will be a bit higher than the level mandated by the sequester, the straitjacket imposed in 2011. Meanwhile, Democrats avoided making any concessions on Social Security or Medicare. Call this one for Team D, I guess.

But if Republicans arguably lost this round, the unemployed lost even more: Extended benefits weren't renewed, so 1.3 million workers will be cut off at the end of this month, and many more will see their benefits run out in the months that follow. And if you take a longer perspective - if you look at what has happened since Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in 2010 - what you see is a triumph of anti-government ideology that has had enormously destructive effects on U.S. workers.

First, some facts about government spending.

One of the truly remarkable things about American political discourse at the end of 2013 is the fixed conviction among many conservatives that the Obama era has been one of enormous growth in government. Where do they think this surge in government spending has taken place? Well, it's true that one major new program - the Affordable Care Act - is going into effect. But it's not nearly as big as people imagine. Once Obamacare is fully implemented, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that it will add only about 3 percent to overall federal spending. And, if you ask people ranting about runaway government what other programs they're talking about, you draw a blank.

Meanwhile, the actual numbers show that over the past three years we've been living through an era of unprecedented government downsizing. Government employment is down sharply; so is total government spending (including state and local governments) adjusted for inflation, which has fallen almost 3 percent since 2010 and around 5 percent per capita.

And when I say unprecedented, I mean just that. We haven't seen anything like the recent government cutbacks since the 1950s, and probably since the demobilization that followed World War II.

What has been cut? It's a complex picture, but the most obvi-

ous cuts have been in education, infrastructure, research and conservation. While the Recovery Act (the Obama stimulus) was in effect, the federal government provided significant aid to state and local education. Then the aid went away, and local governments began letting go of hundreds of thousands of teachers.

Meanwhile, public investment fell sharply - so sharply that many observers refer to it as a "collapse" - as state and local governments canceled transportation projects and deferred maintenance. Researchers, like those at the National Institutes of Health, also took large cuts. And there was a major cut in spending on land and water conservation.

There are three things you need to know about these harsh cuts. First, they were unnecessary. The Washington establishment may have hyperventilated about debt and deficits, but markets have never shown any concern at all about U.S. creditworthiness. In fact, borrowing costs have stayed at near-record lows throughout.

Second, the cuts did huge short-term economic damage. Small-government advocates like to claim that reducing government spending encourages private spending - and when the economy is booming, they have a point. The recent cuts, however, took place at the worst possible moment, the aftermath of a financial crisis. Families were struggling to cope with the debt they had run up during the housing bubble; businesses were reluctant to invest given the weakness of consumer demand. Under these conditions, government cutbacks simply swelled the ranks of the unemployed - and as family incomes fell, so did consumer spending, compounding the damage.

The result was to deepen and prolong America's jobs crisis. Those cuts in government spending are the main reason we still have high unemployment, more than five years after Lehman Brothers fell.

Finally, if you look at my list of major areas that were cut, you'll notice that they mainly involve investing in the future. So we aren't just looking at short-term harm, we're also looking at a long-term degradation of our prospects, reinforced by the corrosive effects of sustained high unemployment.

So, about that budget deal: yes, it was a small victory for Democrats.

It was also, possibly, a small step toward political sanity, with some Republicans rejecting, provisionally, the notion that a party controlling neither the White House nor the Senate can nonetheless get whatever it wants through extortion.

But the larger picture is one of years of deeply destructive policy, imposing gratuitous suffering on working Americans. And this deal didn't do much to change that picture. □



## Strengthen The Presidency



**DAVID BROOKS**  
© 2013 New York Times

A couple of months ago, I visited the Congressional Budget Office, one of our most trust-inspiring government agencies. On the elevator ride, one of the economists confided that it can be challenging to be in government these days.

They work furiously hard to analyze the impact of bills - immigration reform, tax reform, entitlement reform and gun legislation - but almost none of these bills ever makes it into law. There's all this effort, but no result.

And, of course, it's true. We're in a period of reform stagnation. It's possible that years will go by without the passage of a major piece of legislation. Meanwhile, Washington nearly strangles on a gnat, like this week's teeny budget compromise.

In the current issue of The American Interest, Francis Fukuyama analyzes this institutional decay. His point is that the original system of checks and balances has morphed into a "vetocracy," an unworkable machine where many interests can veto reform. First, there is the profusion of interest groups. In 1971, there were 175 registered lobbying firms. By 2009, there were 13,700 lobbyists spending more than \$3.5 billion annually, and this doesn't even count the much larger cloud of activist groups and ideological enforcers. Then there is the judicial usurpation of power. Fukuyama writes, "conflicts that in Sweden or Japan would be solved through quiet consulta-

tions between interested parties through the bureaucracy are fought out through formal litigation in the American court system." This leads to uncertainty, complexity and perverse behavior.

After a law is passed, there are always adjustments to be made. These could be done flexibly. But, instead, Congress throws implementation and enforcement into the court system by giving more groups the standing to sue. What could be a flexible process is turned into "adversarial legalism" that makes government more intrusive and more rigid.

Fukuyama describes what you might call the demotion of Pennsylvania Avenue. Legislative activity could once be understood by what happens at either end of that street. But now power is dispersed among the mass of rentier groups. Members of Congress lead lives they don't want to lead because they are beholden to the groups. The president is hemmed in by this new industry, interest group capitalism. The unofficial pressure sector dominates the official governing sector. Throw in political polarization and you've got a recipe for a government that is more stultified, stagnant and overbearing. Fukuyama ultimately throws up his hands. Things would be better, he observes, if we had a more unified parliamentary system, with more administrative discretion. But we don't. "So we have a problem."

But there is a way out: Make the executive branch more powerful. This is a good moment to advocate greater executive branch power, because we've just seen a monumental example of executive branch incompetence: the botched Obamacare rollout. It's important to advocate greater executive branch power in a chastened mood. It's not that the executive branch is trustworthy; it's just that we're better off when the presidency is stronger than we are when the rentier groups are strong, or when Congress, which is now completely cap-

tured by the rentier groups, is strong.

Here are the advantages. First, it is possible to mobilize the executive branch to come to policy conclusion on something like immigration reform. It's nearly impossible for Congress to lead us to a conclusion about anything. Second, executive branch officials are more sheltered from the interest groups than congressional officials.

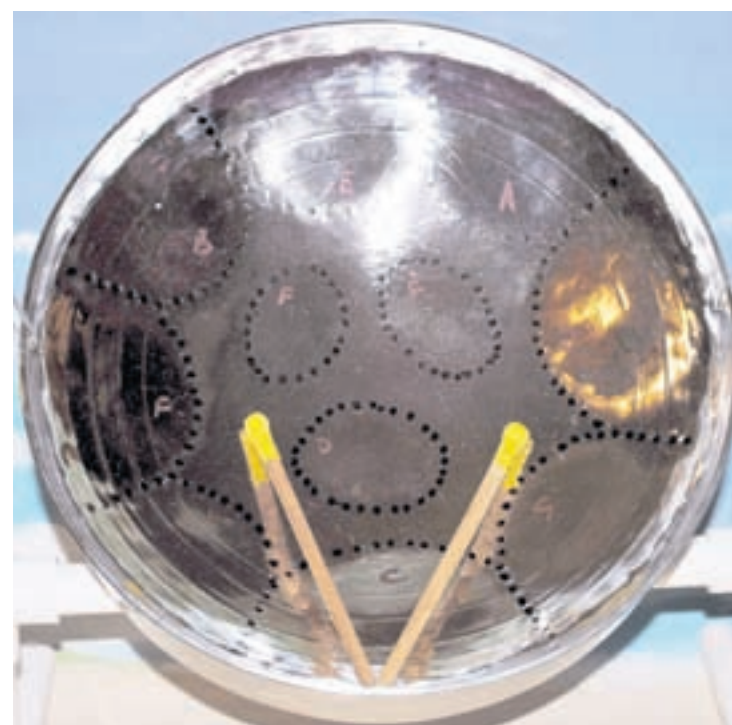
Third, executive branch officials usually have more specialized knowledge than staffers on Capitol Hill and longer historical memories. Fourth, congressional deliberations, to the extent they exist at all, are rooted in rigid political frameworks. Some agencies, especially places like the Office of Management and Budget, are reasonably removed from excessive partisanship. Fifth, executive branch officials, if they were liberated from rigid congressional strictures, would have more discretion to respond to their screw-ups, like the Obamacare implementation. Finally, the nation can take it out on a president's party when a president's laws don't work. That doesn't happen in congressional elections, where most have safe seats.

So how do you energize the executive? It's a good idea to be tolerant of executive branch power grabs and to give agencies flexibility. We voters also need to change our voting criteria. It's not enough to vote for somebody who agrees with your policy preferences. Presidential candidates need to answer two questions. How are you going to build a governing 60 percent majority that will enable you to drive the Washington policy process? What is your experience implementing policies through big organizations? We don't need bigger government. We need more unified authority. Take power away from the rentier groups who dominate the process. Allow people in those authorities to exercise discretion. Find a president who can both rally a majority, and execute a policy process. □



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